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# MANAGEMENT PLAN

September 2003

for

# Cape Scott Provincial Park

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BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection
Environmental Stewardship Division

# Cape Scott Provincial Park

# MANAGEMENT PLAN

Environmental Stewardship
Vancouver Island Region

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Environmental Stewardship Division thanks all those who took the time to attend workshops and make written submissions to assist in the development of this plan.

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# Executive Summary

- Cape Scott Provincial Park will primarily be managed as a wilderness park that protects important wildlife and its habitat and provides outstanding wilderness recreation opportunities.

- Management actions will focus on protecting the natural values and interpreting the cultural values while providing visitors with continuing opportunities to pursue recreational activities that are in keeping with the wilderness character of the park.

- An Ecosystem Management Plan will be developed for Cape Scott Provincial Park to address the management of vegetation and wildlife in the context of the ecosystem rather than individual parts.

- Environmental Stewardship will work co-operatively with other government agencies, community groups, and the public to address key management issues that affect the integrity of Cape Scott Provincial Park's terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

- Within Cape Scott Provincial Park, zoning allows for the future development of the proposed North Coast Trail.

- Most of Cape Scott Provincial Park is zoned Wilderness Recreation which acknowledges the natural values in a remote and wild setting. Existing and proposed visitor facility development will be limited to the Natural Environment and Intensive Recreation zones.

- Four areas are zoned as Special Feature and include Danish settlement areas such as Hansen Lagoon, the 'sandneck' at Guise Bay, Spencer Farm, and the wetlands on Mt. Saint Patrick.

- An Intensive Recreation Zone has been established at Shushartie Bay to provide for development of a new front country campground, boat launch and trailhead facilities. These developments are contingent on the establishment and maintenance of suitable road access to the area, the completion of an environmental impact assessment, and detailed recreation site plans.

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# Cape Scott Provincial Park
# Management Plan

Approved by:

D Heath

Dick Heath
Regional Manager

Date: October 17/03

Nancy Wilkin

Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister

Date: February 6/04

# Introduction

Cape Scott Provincial Park is located on the northwest corner of Vancouver Island (Figure 1). In 1995, the addition of the Nahwitti-Shushartie area to Cape Scott Provincial Park enlarged the park to 22,220 hectares. This addition made Cape Scott the third largest provincial park on Vancouver Island. The park protects an array of natural and cultural landscapes ranging from wind swept sand and cobble beaches with adjoining coastal vegetation communities of Sitka spruce to upland bog ecosystems in the park's interior. Some of the provincially significant cultural values found within the park include First Nation's archaeological sites and remnants of late 19th century European agricultural settlements. The park has long been a destination for hikers seeking a coastal backcountry experience.

# Purpose of the Plan

This management plan updates the existing management plan for Cape Scott Provincial Park, and is the first management plan for the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition to the park. The management plan guides the management of the park for the next decade. The plan defines the role of Cape Scott Provincial Park in the provincial system of protected areas and establishes the objectives and strategies that will guide the management of the area. The management plan also deals with issues that require immediate attention within the park. Some of these issues include the level of development for the proposed North Coast Trail, management of park access, and management of natural and cultural values.

The plan also reflects the public's expectations for the park. Based on this public input and policy, this plan directs government staff to protect the area's natural values and interpret cultural values while providing recreation opportunities. The spirit and intent outlined in a management plan is a reflection of a society's values, interests and priorities at a given point. Thus, it is necessary to review and update this document periodically.

# The Planning Process

The planning process for Cape Scott involved a number of steps. The first step was the production of a background report. The background report forms the information base for the creation of the management plan and is key to understanding the management strategies proposed in the plan. The background report was prepared in 1998 and was sent to individuals and groups on the Cape Scott mailing list and distributed at public workshops.

A series of five workshops were held throughout 1998. The first workshop was held in February at the Seven Hills Golf Resort located half way between the communities of Port Hardy and Port McNeill. The focus of this workshop was to develop a "vision" that would help to guide the overall management and development of the park. Subsequent to this workshop, it became apparent that additional workshops were required to focus on the new North Coast Trail in the Nahwitti-Shushartie area of Cape Scott Provincial Park. As a result, in October of 1998, four additional workshops were held in the communities of Vancouver, Victoria, Courtenay, and Port Hardy. These workshops focused on developing a common vision for the development of the North Coast Trail.

Once a draft management plan was developed, open houses were held in the communities of Victoria, Campbell River and Port Hardy in February 2001. The intent of the open houses was to present the draft management plan and receive public comments. Following the open houses, a meeting was held with the Mount Waddington Community Resource Board and parks staff to review the public comments and to finalize the draft management plan.

The development of this plan reflects the wide array of public comments and inputs that the Environmental Stewardship Division received throughout the planning process. Based on public input and existing policies, zoning and facility developments are described in this plan. Following public review of the draft plan, the management plan was finalized and submitted for approval to the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Environmental Stewardship Division, Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

# Relationship to Other Land Use Plans

In 1973, Cape Scott was established as a Class A Provincial Park. The first master plan was developed for Cape Scott Provincial Park in 1985 and was updated in 1991. Since then, to meet the requirements of the Protected Areas Strategy, the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan recommended the protection of the Nahwitti-Shushartie. On July 12, 1995, the Nahwitti-Shushartie area was added to Cape Scott Provincial Park.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is leading a comprehensive planning process for the coast of British Columbia. Part of this process is the Marine Protected Areas Strategy, a joint federal and provincial program to protect representative and special marine values. The foreshore area of Cape Scott Provincial Park is a marine protected area as defined in this strategy. As such, the park is an integral part of a growing system of marine protected areas on the British Columbia coast.

Cape Scott contributes to the goals and objectives of the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan and various other landscape level plans.

# Relationship to First Nations

Aboriginal people have traditionally occupied and used the area included in Cape Scott Provincial Park. By virtue of this traditional use and continued presence in the region, three First Nations - the Quatsino, the Tlatlasikwala, and the Kwakiutl - assert their aboriginal rights over the area.

The people of the Quatsino First Nation are based in Coal Harbour and their asserted traditional territory covers the northwest portion of Vancouver Island, from the north side of Brooks Peninsula to Cape Scott including Holberg Inlet and Alice Lake. The Tlatlasikwala have been repatriated to Hope Island, and their asserted traditional territory covers the north end of the Vancouver Island and includes Cape Scott. The Kwakiutl First Nation's asserted traditional territory includes an area around Shushartie Bay.

These First Nations have been contacted directly by Environmental Stewardship and were invited to participate in the preparation of this management plan. Effective working relationships are needed between agency staff and First Nations people to ensure that the exercise of aboriginal rights is not impaired by park management activities and the park management objectives are as compatible as possible with First Nations' interests.

**Plate 1: Beach at Experiment Bight**

# Cape Scott Provincial Park – Regional Context

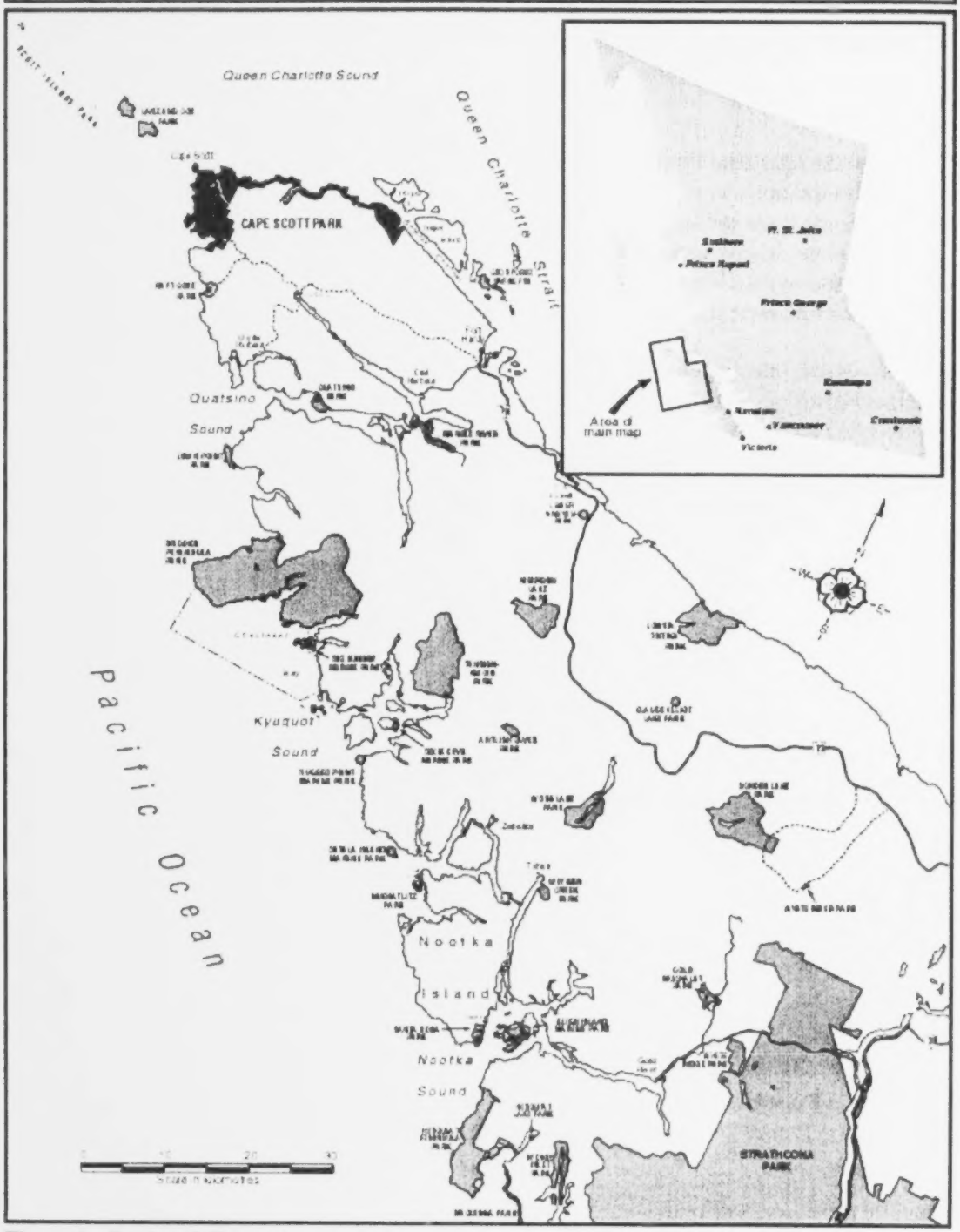



Figure 1: Regional Context

# Cape Scott Provincial Park – Regional Context

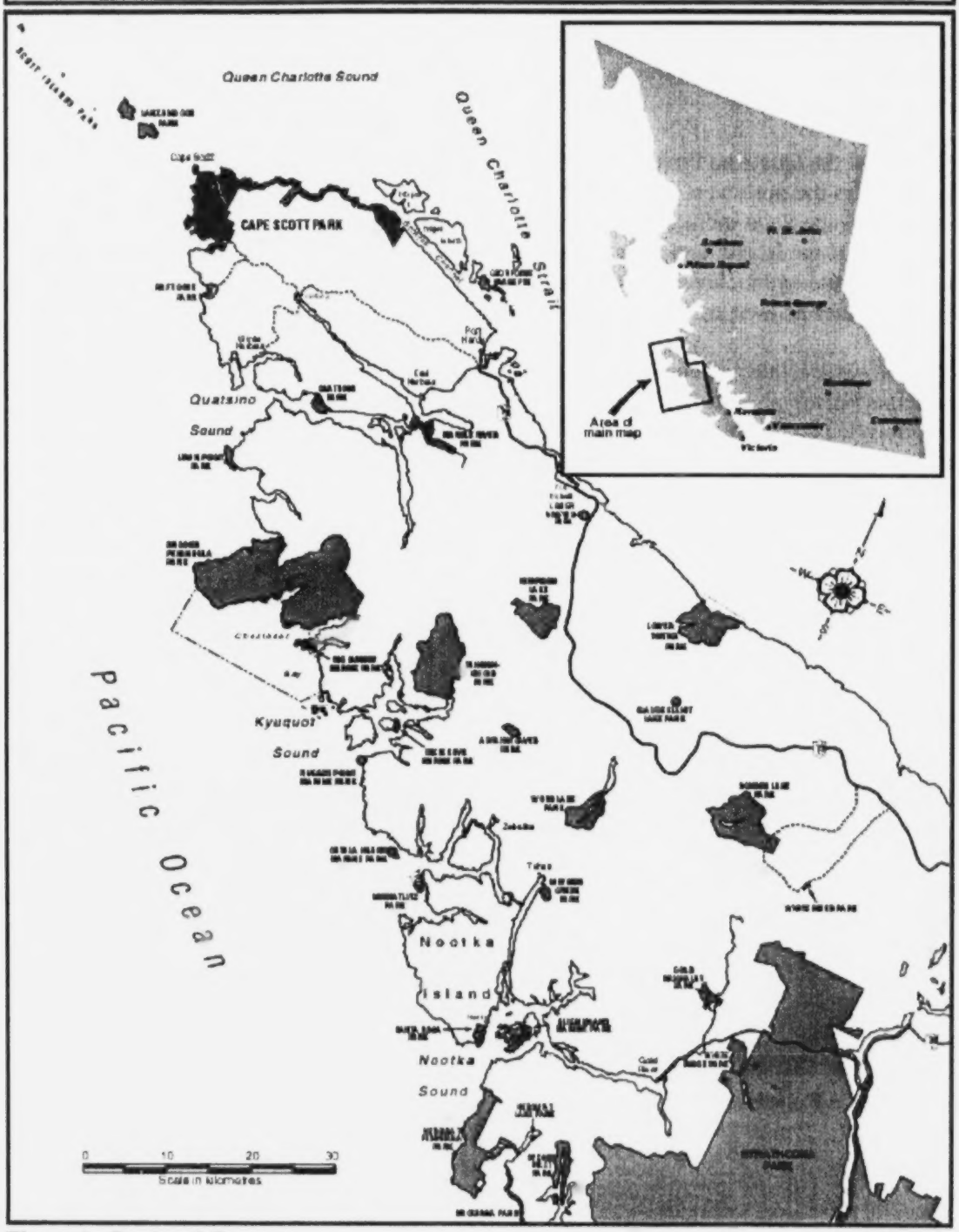



Figure 1: Regional Context

# Summary of Planning Issues

This plan addresses a number of key issues, outlined below.

## Management of Park Access

The amount and type of access provided to a park will often determine the type of visitor use, number of visitors, seasonality of visitation, the degree of management required, and the ultimate "character" of, and impacts on the park. Vehicle access to Cape Scott is via the San Josef mainline logging road. Marine access is possible at various locations and aircraft access is allowed through a permit system. The management plan addresses the issue of access, with a particular focus on the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition.

## Level of Development

Cape Scott Provincial Park is known for its accessible wilderness recreation opportunities. However, increased numbers of visitors can detract from the wilderness attributes and result in both social and environmental impacts. Demands for eco-tourism opportunities to diversify the local economy may also promote increased use. A balance must be reached between protection of park values, and the recreational experience offered by the park. The management planning process reviewed the current level of development and type of recreation opportunity, and provided direction for future management activities. Focus will be on the Nahwitti-Shushartie, which is currently undeveloped.

## Relationships with First Nations

Cape Scott Provincial Park overlaps with the asserted traditional territories of the Quatsino, Kwakiutl and Tlatlasikwala First Nations. These First Nations have stated that they have aboriginal rights in the parks. The management plan provides direction to establish a relationship with First Nations to avoid infringement of aboriginal rights.

## Management of Natural Values

Cape Scott Provincial Park protects ecosystems that are representative of the Nahwitti Lowlands Ecosection. Some of the natural ecosystems have been affected by forest development, clearing by settlers, and introduction of non-endemic species. The management plan directs the need to address the vegetation and wildlife habitat requirements of the park and the impact recreation activities have on these natural values.

## Management of Cultural Values

Cape Scott Provincial Park protects and interprets glimpses of both First Nations and European history. In the 1991 master plan, the theme, "Wilderness reclaiming the works of man" was adopted. This management plan endorses this direction.

## Inholdings

Cape Scott Provincial Park contains 12 parcels of land that are privately held and two parcels that are held by the federal government. Private development of these parcels can have significant impacts on the natural and recreational values of the park. The management plan provides direction on Environmental Stewardship's relationship with the private landholders.

**Plate 2: Beach at San Josef Bay**

**Plate 3: Remnant of early European pioneer settlement**

# Background Summary

## Cape Scott Provincial Park

Cape Scott Provincial Park lies on the northwest corner of Vancouver Island, and represents one of the western-most points of Canada (Figure 2). The park is within the Nahwitti Lowland Ecosection and contains 15% of that ecosection's Coastal Western Hemlock very wet hyper maritime (CWH vh1) variant. The park encompasses wild scenic coastlines with picturesque white sandy beaches and rocky headlands. The park is a mosaic of ecosystems that includes the stunted vegetation of the bog lands and poorly drained uplands, old-growth forests, wind-swept sand dunes and abundant marine flora and fauna. Its remote location and rich physical and cultural values add to Cape Scott's contribution to the protected areas system. The park, with an area of 22,220 hectares (17,348 ha of uplands and 4,872 ha of foreshore), offers a high quality wilderness experience along a stretch of relatively accessible wild coast.

The park provides habitat for a wide range of wildlife. Cougars, wolves, black tail deer and black bears are residents of the park. Herds of Roosevelt elk utilize the Nahwitti and Stranby drainages. A wide variety of bird life is found in the park including Townsend's warbler, rufous hummingbird, pileated woodpecker, short-eared owl and American kestrel. A number of bald eagles nest in the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition. Shorebirds such as sandhill cranes, common snipe, spotted sandpiper, semipalmated plover, and killdeer frequent the mudflats in the park. Great blue herons, Canada geese and trumpeter swans are some of the migratory species that utilize the park.

Along the park's coastline, species such as periwinkles, limpets, large mussels and barnacles can be found on rocky shores, and sculpin, crabs, sea stars and sea anemones inhabit rock pools. The sandy beaches support clams and snails. The tidal mud flats have a wide variety of species, including geoducks, clams, crabs and eelgrass. The rivers in the park support a number of salmon species including coho, pink, chum, and sockeye. Rainbow (steelhead) trout, cutthroat trout, Dolly Varden char and sculpin are also found in the park.

Cape Scott Park is accessible by automobile over 64 km of gravel road off Highway 19 at Port Hardy. The gravel logging road leads westward from Port Hardy, passes through Holberg at kilometre 48 and terminates in a parking lot next to the park boundary. There is no automobile access within the park. Historic trails provide the means of traversing the upland area of the park. A boat launch near the parking lot makes it possible to enter San Josef Bay by small boat or canoe along the river. Aircraft access into the park is closed except by authorization from a park officer to a number of designated sites.

Currently, the park receives approximately 6,500 overnight visitors annually. The vast majority of this visitation occurs during the summer months for the purposes of backpacking and beach camping.

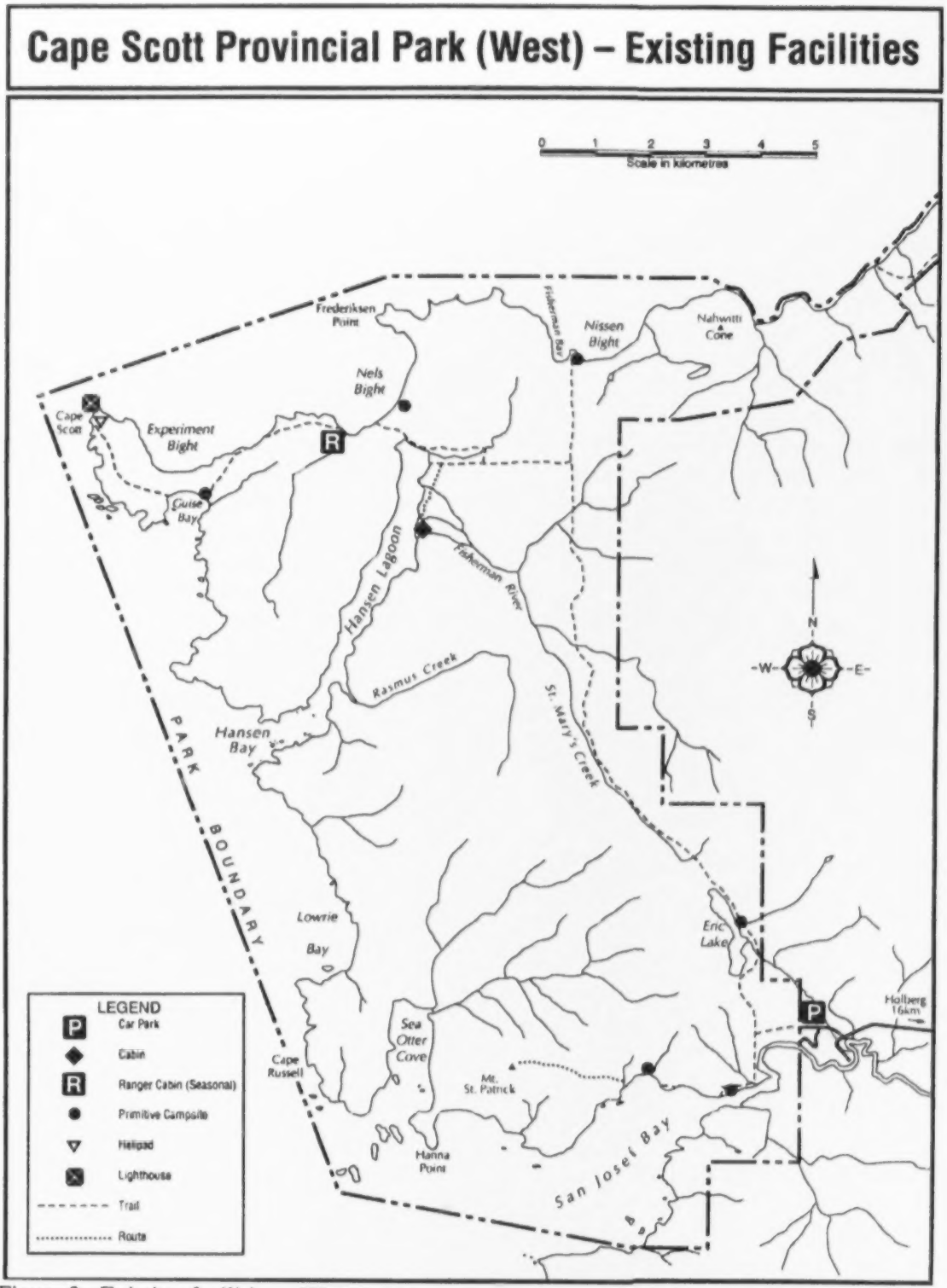


Figure 2: Existing facilities – West

# Role of the Protected Area

## Conservation Role

Cape Scott Provincial Park provides the largest representation of the Nahwitti Lowlands Ecosection (NWL), protecting 87.2% of the 7.57% that is protected in the protected areas system. The park contains characteristic low plains of mature forests, remote sandy and cobble beaches interspersed with rugged rocky headlands. It protects special natural features such as the estuaries of the Stranby and Shushartie rivers, mature spruce forests, important fish rearing and waterfowl habitats, raised bogs and a portion of the most northerly range of Roosevelt elk on Vancouver Island.

In terms of biogeoclimatic zone and variants, Cape Scott protects CWH vh1 (very wet, hypermaritime Coastal Western Hemlock) biogeoclimatic zone. This biogeoclimatic variant is well-represented in the protected areas system at 19.34%; Cape Scott contributes 18.8% of the overall protected areas system representation of the CWH vh1, placing it second behind Brooks Peninsula Park (34%).

The park makes small contributions to the protection of Queen Charlotte Sound (QCS) and Vancouver Island Shelf (VIS) marine ecosections. The protected areas system contains representation of 3.1% and 5.4% of these ecosections. Cape Scott encompasses approximately 1,450 hectares or 1.30% of QCS that is protected, and approximately 4,000 ha or 3.84% of VIS.

## Recreation Role

Cape Scott Provincial Park provides provincially significant recreation opportunities for visitors to experience the rugged and wild northwest coast of Vancouver Island. It is the largest protected area on northern Vancouver Island. The park provides opportunities for remote coastal backpacking and hiking, sea kayaking and boating, hunting, wildlife watching, appreciation of First Nations' history and homesteading cultural heritage, and nature study of a unique "muskeg" landscape. In addition, park zoning allows for the provision of front country camping and day-use activities in a coastal setting.

## Cultural Role

Cape Scott Provincial Park contains and protects important cultural and heritage values of British Columbia including pre-contact First Nations' traditional sites and early European agricultural settlements. The park falls within the asserted traditional territory of the Tlatlasikwala, Quatsino and Kwakiutl First Nations. To date, a number of First Nations archaeological sites have been identified. The park was also home to Danish and English pioneers at the turn of the twentieth century. Small farming communities and settlements existed in Shushartie Bay, Hansen Lagoon, Sea Otter Cove, and San Josef Bay. Remnants of their settlement efforts can still be found at many areas within the park.

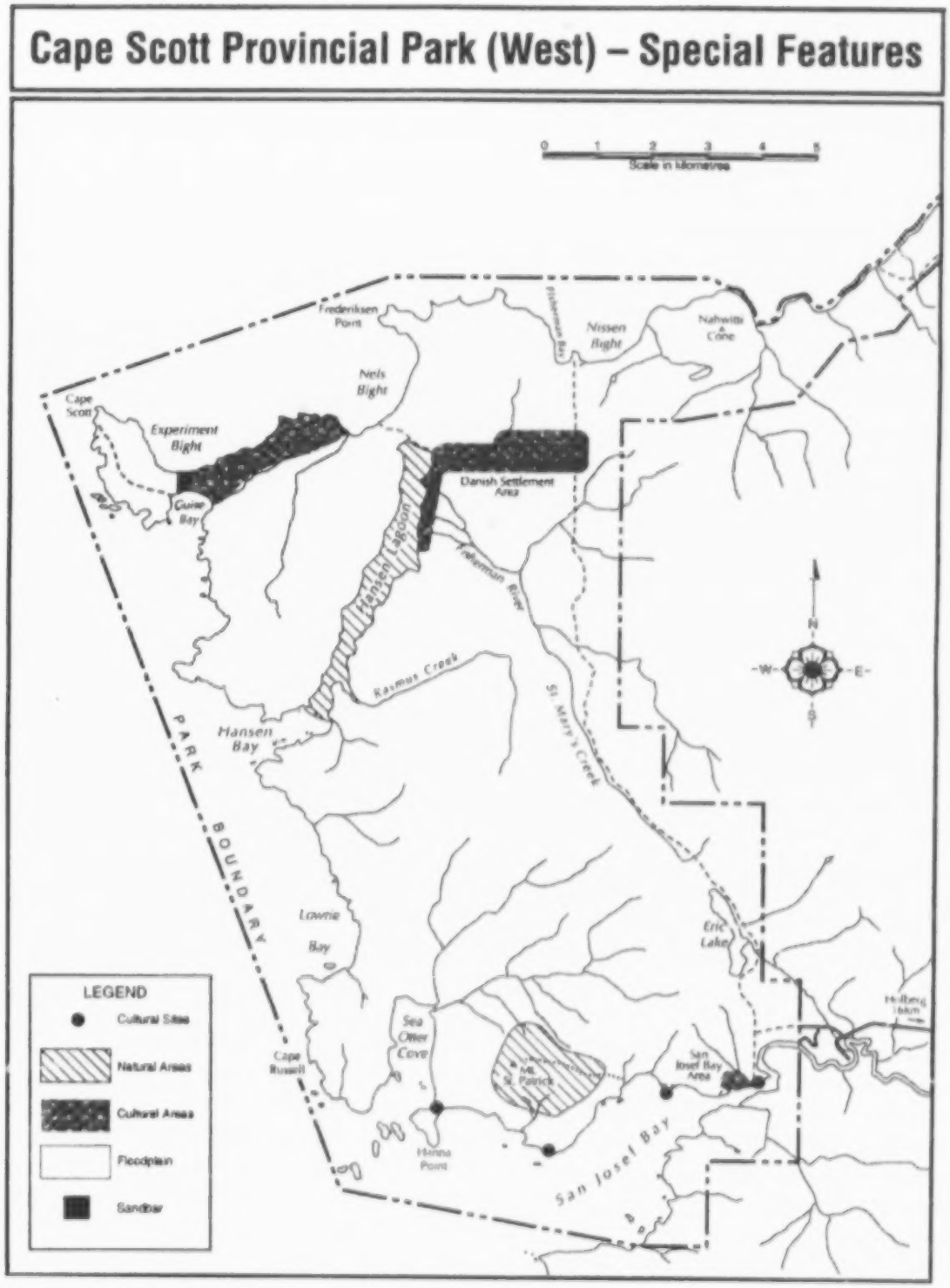



Figure 3: Special Features

# Vision

A vision statement looks forward to describe the character and management of the park in the future. A shared vision of the future helps to focus and guide the planning, management, operation and development of the park while facilitating closer co-operation and integration between the people who care for and use the park. A clear vision provides the context and helps to guide the short-term and long-term management strategies and assist in reacting to changing demands in recreation and incorporating new approaches to conservation management.

## Cape Scott Provincial Park Vision Statement

*Ecological values and features of the Nahwitti Lowlands Ecosection contained in Cape Scott Provincial Park are highly valued by residents and visitors to northern Vancouver Island. Cape Scott Provincial Park protects representative examples of intact functioning ecosystems and serves an important role in conserving wildlife species. Wildlife and plant diversity have been protected, and visitor impacts on the natural and cultural values of the park have been minimized. The recreation opportunities offered in the park are the cornerstone of a vibrant North Island tourism economy as visitors come to Cape Scott to experience and appreciate its natural beauty and history.*

*Enthusiasts enjoy multi-day wilderness hiking on beaches or backcountry trails, while families or the less able enjoy shorter hikes on more developed trails that have been improved for safety and convenience. Designated campsites cater to the majority of visitors who are seeking a self-sustained outdoor recreation experience, while huts along the North Coast Trail provide shelter for visitors in bad weather and help to reduce the environmental damage by visitors. For those seeking a less physically demanding experience, private in-holdings provide accommodation that is more comfortable. Limited access is provided by boat and aircraft to facilitate access in a small number of areas but minimizes the impacts to the wilderness experience.*

*The park is accessible by road to Shushartie Bay, by trail to San Josef Bay, and by sea and air to designated locations. Local commercial operators are running a number of successful tour/guide businesses and are renowned for their code of ethics, which enables groups with different interests to enjoy their visits without disturbing others. The North Coast Trail is a world renowned backcountry hiking destination and provides a strong addition to the North Island tourism industry. The Environmental Stewardship Division is working closely with First Nations to protect, present and promote the natural and cultural values of the park. Federal, provincial and private agencies are working co-operatively with the public to ensure long-term protection of the land and marine components of the park.*

# Park Zoning

Zoning is used to assist in the planning and management of a provincial park. In general terms, zoning divides a park into logical units to apply uniform and consistent management objectives based on natural, cultural and recreational values, existing and projected patterns of access, and recreation use in relation to specific conservation goals. The zones reflect the intended land use, the degree of human use, and the level of management and development required.

At one end of the spectrum, the Intensive Recreation Zone indicates a portion of a park that is appropriate for high levels of recreation and facility development. At the opposite end, the Wilderness Conservation Zone indicate areas of a park that receive the highest levels of protection and minimal human presence. Between these two extremes, there are three additional zones (Wilderness Recreation, Special Feature, Natural Environment) that provide for a range of conservation and recreation priorities. Appendix C has a full description of the zoning policy.

As indicated by Figures 4 and 5, Cape Scott Provincial Park is divided into four zones: Wilderness Recreation; Special Feature; Natural Environment; and Intensive Recreation. Below is the objective, description and rationale for all the zones found in Cape Scott Provincial Park. See Appendix A for a matrix on the application of activity, use and facility in the park.

## Wilderness Recreation Zone

The primary objective of the Wilderness Recreation Zone is to protect a remote, undisturbed landscape while providing some level of backcountry use that is compatible with the natural environment and its wilderness atmosphere.

This zone covers **85%** of Cape Scott Provincial Park, including the majority of the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition, and the most eastern upland portions of the park.

The rationale for establishing this zone is:

- The land lying west of St. Mary's Creek and Eric Lake, and the land in the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition are largely free of human use and are remote and undisturbed.
- Several important populations of wildlife species and their habitat exist in this zone and should be relatively unaffected by human development and activity.
- The area covered by this zone provides the park visitor with a significant wilderness-oriented experience and confirms relatively low levels of use and minimal development.

## Special Feature Zone

The objective is to protect and present significant ecological and cultural features or processes because of the special character, fragility and heritage values.

Within Cape Scott Provincial Park, Special Feature zoning is applied to Danish settlement areas (Hansen Lagoon, the "sandneck" at Guise Bay, and Spencer Farm) and the upland wetlands on Mt. Saint Patrick. **3%** of Cape Scott falls under Special Feature zoning.

The remains of the Danish settlements that represent a significant part of our post-contact history and the unique upland wetlands are the reasons for establishing this zoning. The Special Feature Zones serve to acknowledge that significance and draw management attention to it.

## Natural Environment Zone

The objective is to protect scenic values and to provide backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Areas of Cape Scott Provincial Park, with higher levels of visitor service development such as the Cape Scott Trail, and development nodes in the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition fall in the Natural Environment Zone. In addition, the foreshore and marine areas in the western portion of the park have been zoned as Natural Environment. This zone comprises **10.5%** of the park.

The rationale for the establishment of this zoning is:

- This zone recognizes the recreational values of the Cape Scott Trail, the destination of Nels and Nissan bights, the trail to San Josef Bay and the North Coast Trail.
- The zone indicates the intent of the Environmental Stewardship Division to maintain these trails and facilities.
- This zoning provides for higher levels of visitor use where people will see interesting features in a natural environment but expect to see other park visitors participating in similar activities.
- Natural Environment Zone allows for motorized access of the marine portions in the park.

## Intensive Recreation Zone

The objective is to provide for a variety of readily accessible facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities. This includes such facilities as campgrounds, picnic areas, parking areas, and boat launches. The management intent of this zone is to accommodate vehicle-based users in as natural a setting as possible.

In Cape Scott Provincial Park, Intensive Recreation zoning applies to a portion of Shushartie Bay, and allows for the future development of a front country campground, a new trailhead and day use facilities. An additional Intensive Recreation Zone is situated near the current trailhead to allow for the possible expansion of the existing parking facility. Only **1.5%** of the total area of the park is zoned Intensive Recreation.

The rationale for establishing this zoning is that it defines the intent to develop a relatively small area at Shushartie Bay and may include a campground, trailhead, parking and day use facilities for park visitors.

# Cape Scott Provincial Park (West) – Zoning

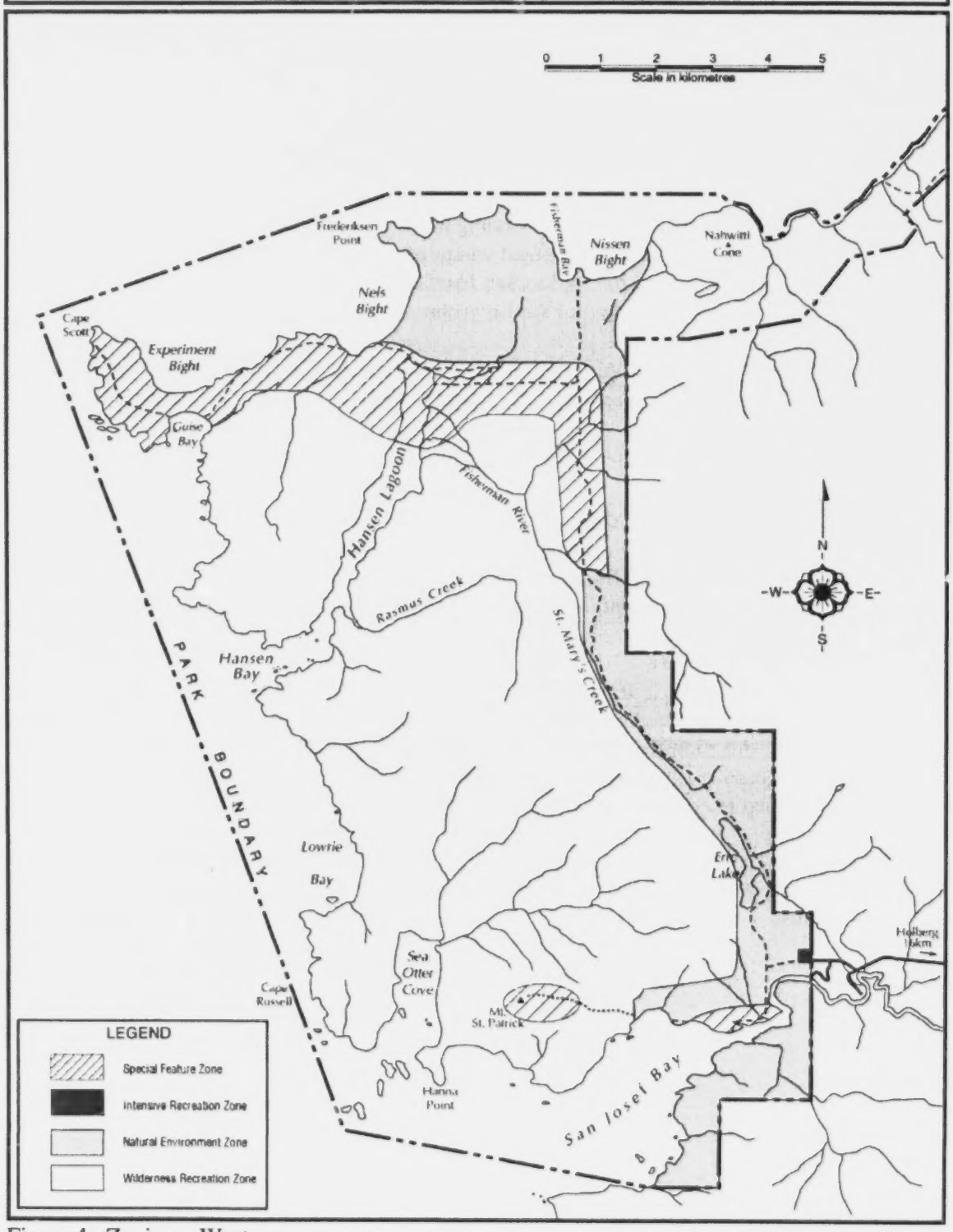
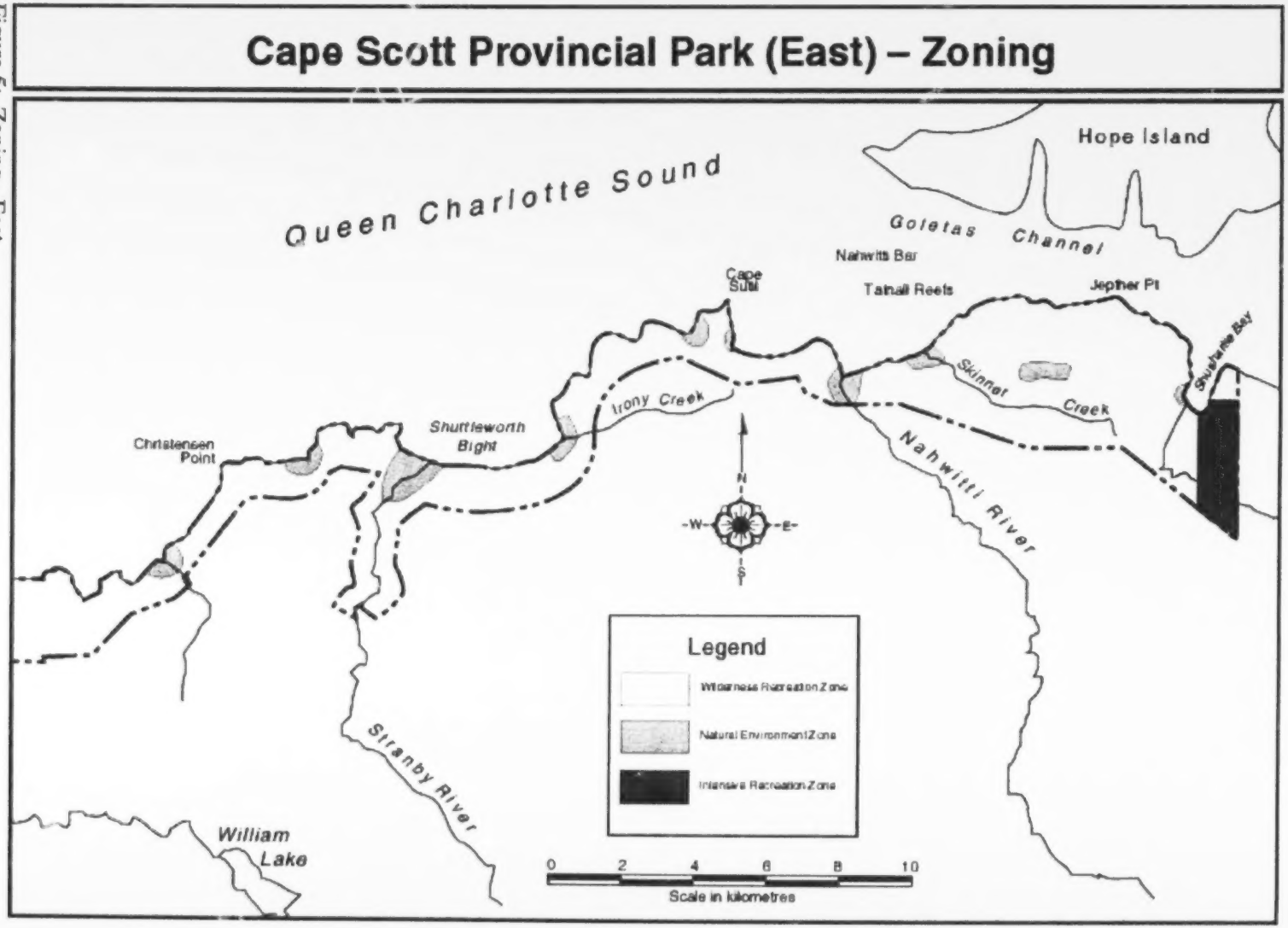



Figure 4: Zoning – West

Figure 5: Zoning - East



# Natural and Cultural Values Management

Cape Scott Provincial Park conserves significant elements of British Columbia's natural and cultural heritage. The primary management goal is to ensure the long-term protection and interpretation of the natural and cultural values of the parks. To ensure these values are managed in perpetuity, an adaptive approach will be applied in the management of Cape Scott. By adopting this management approach, Environmental Stewardship will focus on the inter-relationships among ecosystem components such as water, vegetation, and wildlife, and the integrated management of these components.

## Land and Resource Tenures

Within the Cape Scott Provincial Park boundaries, a number of parcels of land are held by government agencies, companies and private individuals. Three Indian reserves are found in the park and Transport Canada has a large reserve that encompasses the tip of Cape Scott where the Canadian Coast Guard operates a light station. The park contains 12 parcels of private land totalling approximately 124 hectares and two parcels of federally controlled land covering approximately 160 hectares (Figures 6 and 7). In the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition, there are some outstanding mineral tenures, timber sale licenses and two trap lines.

The older part of the park includes marine and foreshore areas which protect marine values and assist in controlling access and activities. The Nahwitti-Shushartie addition does not have any foreshore area included.

Management of these inholdings, reserves and tenures can have a significant impact on the park's natural and cultural values, and opportunities for visitor experiences.

### Objective:

To work co-operatively with other government agencies, companies and individuals who are responsible for the management of private inholdings, tenures and licenses, to meet the conservation and recreation roles of the parks.

### Strategies:

- Acquire, where possible, any inholdings, licenses or tenures.
- Pursue the addition of the foreshore along the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition.
- Encourage landowners and tenure holders to minimize impacts to the park and promote compatibility of developments with park management goals and objectives.
- Monitor the impacts of private land development on the park's natural and cultural values and opportunities for visitor experiences.
- Issue permits to trap line holders; acquire trap lines as they become available.

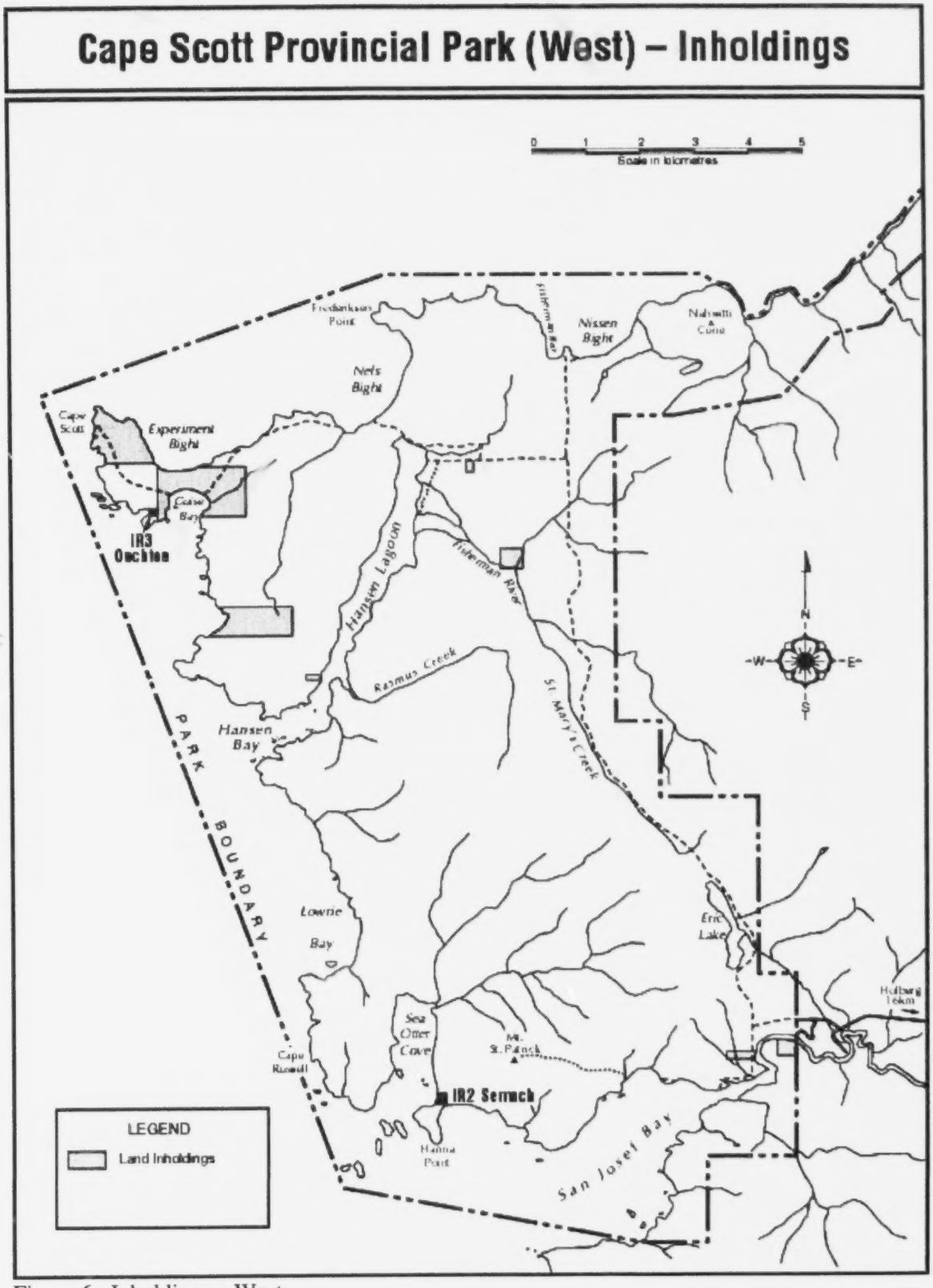
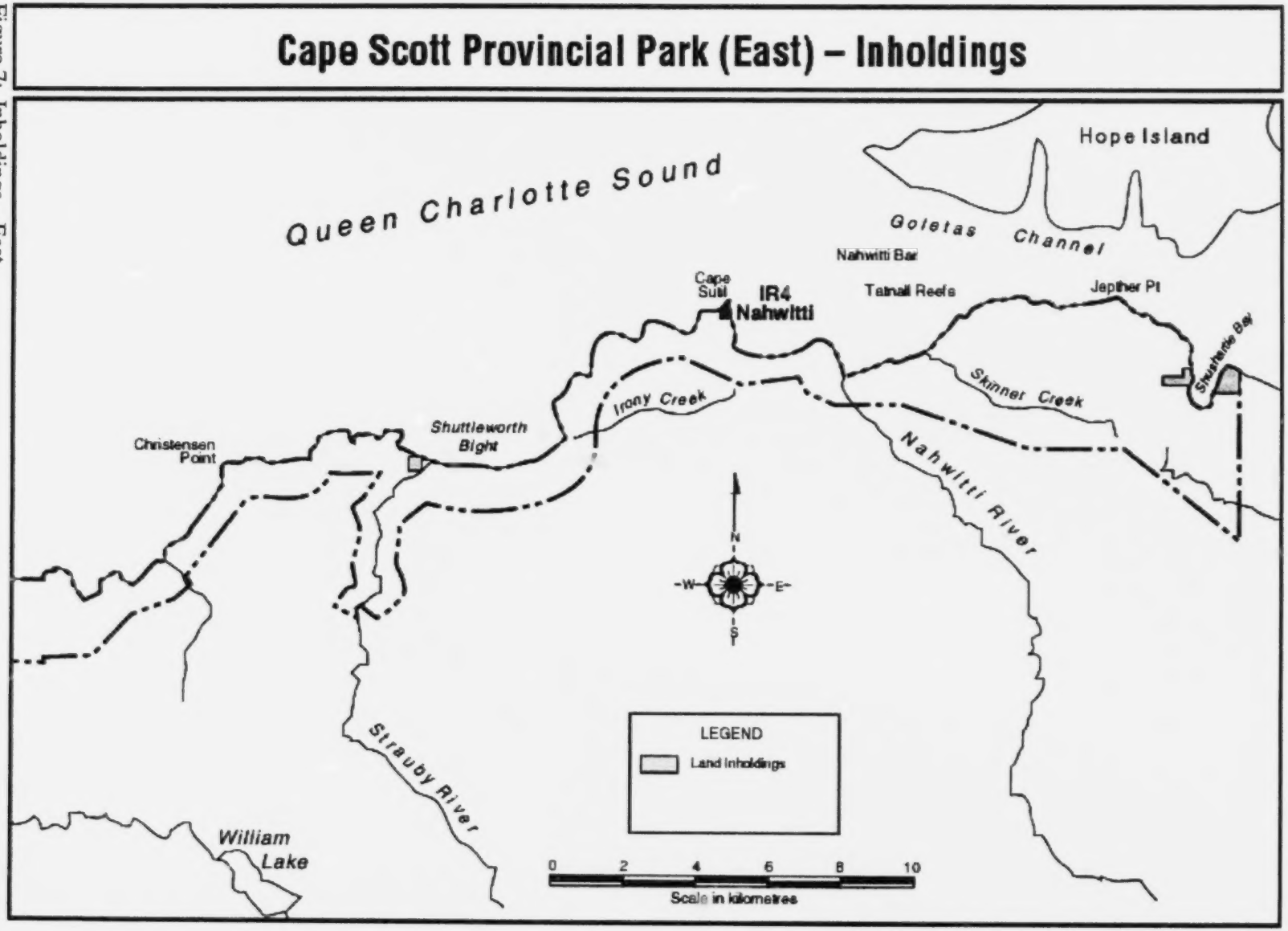



Figure 6: Inholdings – West

Figure 7: Inholdings – East



# Freshwater

Cape Scott Provincial Park is exposed to moisture-laden ocean winds that bring a considerable amount of precipitation. This precipitation is critical to the replenishment of the freshwater supply in Cape Scott, which includes sizeable rivers such as the San Josef, Fisherman, Stranby, Nahwitti and Shushartie rivers and their tributaries, and unique upland peat bogs.

## Objectives:

To protect and maintain the natural qualities of water and their ecological processes within the park.

To protect the unique upland wetland ecosystems.

## Strategies:

- Encourage the Ministry of Forests and forest companies to maintain a high standard of water quality entering the park.
- Ensure that the development and maintenance of trails and campsites minimize erosion of surface materials into creeks, rivers and lakes.
- Monitor upland wetland ecosystems and take management action to limit recreational impacts.
- Ensure that sanitary facilities are properly designed and located.
- Prepare and provide education on procedures for proper disposal of human waste.

# Vegetation

Cape Scott Provincial Park contains a wide array of plant communities that vary relative to geographic location, proximity to the ocean environment, and elevation. To ensure the long-term viability of the park's diverse vegetation, an adaptive and integrated approach to ecosystem management is required.

## Objectives:

To manage the vegetation of the park to ensure the natural biodiversity and ecological integrity is maintained.

To manage the park's vegetation communities at the ecosection level in consultation with adjoining private and public landowners, management agencies, and institutions.

## Strategies:

- Develop an ecosystem-based management plan that includes:
  - forest and plant inventory;
  - wildlife habitat inventory;
  - occurrence of rare plant species and sensitive plant communities;
  - disease and insect infestation monitoring;
  - review of disturbed areas; and
  - monitoring of areas susceptible to establishment of non-native species, especially adjacent to Special Features zones.
- Allow natural processes and functions (disease infestations, re-vegetation of previously cleared forested areas, fire) to occur unless special natural or cultural values in the park, or land values external to park boundaries are threatened or endangered.

- Actively participate in the review of proposed forest developments adjacent to the park to mitigate impacts to wildlife populations and habitats.
- Liaise with neighbouring agencies and individuals to ensure compatible management objectives are achieved wherever possible.
- Evaluate proposed access points and facility sites for the occurrence of rare vegetation before development or issuance of park use permits.

# Wildlife

Cape Scott Provincial Park provides habitat to a large variety of wildlife species including wolf, cougar, black bear, black tailed deer and elk. In the marine environment, sea otters, mink, grey, sperm, humpback and killer whales can be found. Protection of wildlife habitats is critical to the continued survival of many of these species.

## Objectives:

To maintain and protect the natural diversity of wildlife species and populations with special attention to sensitive, rare, threatened and endangered animals.

To maintain sustainable wildlife populations.

To protect critical habitats and restore disturbed habitats where it is compatible with other park objectives.

To inform the public about non-intrusive appreciation of wildlife.

To encourage scientific wildlife research in the park, particularly those with direct management benefits.

## Strategies:

- Develop an ecosystem-based management plan that assesses:
  - the need for inventory,
  - diversity of wildlife and habitat requirements,
  - insects and disease, and
  - minimizing negative encounters between people and wildlife.
- Evaluate proposed access points and facility sites for wildlife use before development or issuance of park use permits.
- Cooperate and establish common objectives with government agencies, interest groups and the public to manage wildlife and marine species that move into and out of the park.
- Develop a wildlife-human interaction management plan to address potential bear, cougar and wolf and visitor conflicts. Produce an information package on bear avoidance behaviours for park visitors.
- Assess, monitor and regulate hunting, fishing and trapping in conjunction with Fish and Wildlife Science and Allocation Section in the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection to ensure healthy wildlife and fish populations are maintained.
- Develop interpretative information on wildlife features and values.

# Fish

The rivers and lakes in Cape Scott Provincial Park provide habitat for four salmon species (coho, pink, chum, sockeye), rainbow (steelhead), cutthroat trout, Dolly Varden char, Aleutian sculpin and prickly sculpin.

### Objectives:

To maintain fish habitat and, where possible, restore damaged habitat.

To conserve all natural fish populations.

### Strategies:

- Monitor and regulate angling in conjunction with Fish and Wildlife Science and Allocation Section of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection to ensure that natural fish populations are maintained.
- Maintain freshwater fisheries within the Wilderness Recreation Zone with methods other than stocking.
- Undertake an inventory of fish bearing streams and rivers and rearing habitat within the park.
- Evaluate the significance of fish habitat.

# Coastal and Marine Values Management

Cape Scott Provincial Park is greatly influenced by the coastal and marine environments that surround it. The park contains a marine component within its legislated boundaries. Management in aquatic environments (both freshwater and marine) is complicated by an overlap in federal and provincial mandates. Many of the marine objectives for Cape Scott Provincial Park can only be fully achieved with complementary management by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). DFO is responsible for the management of fisheries and fish habitat through the *Fisheries Act* (Canada) and the *Oceans Act*. The *Oceans Act* also provides a marine protected area designation to enable a greater emphasis on conservation. The marine protected areas designation can be used to complement provincial protected areas.

Much of the visual attraction of the area is due to the interrelationship between the marine and coastal ecosystems and the terrestrial ones. Natural features which contribute to the visitor experience include long secluded beaches, rocky headlands, intertidal areas rich with marine life, and the presence of offshore marine birds and mammals. The older part of the park includes marine and foreshore areas which protect marine values and assist in controlling access and activities. The Nahwitti-Shushartie addition does not have any foreshore area included.

### Objectives:

To protect the marine and coastal ecosystems within the park with the application of complementary federal authorities and regulations.

To protect high valued marine ecosystems that extend beyond the park boundaries through federal marine protected area designation.

### Strategies:

- Seek complementary federal recognition or designation of marine protected area status for Cape Scott Provincial Park through the Marine Protected Areas Strategy.
- Pursue the addition of the foreshore along the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition.
- Work with DFO to enact complementary closures for benthic finfish. Monitor recreation harvests and consider full protection for sensitive species such as California mussel and goose barnacle.

## Cultural Values Management

Cape Scott Provincial Park is within the traditional territories of the Quatsino, Tlatlasikwala and the Kwakiutl First Nations. The park contains numerous archaeological and traditional sites. The park is also rich in post-contact history. Areas within Cape Scott such as Shushartie Bay and Hansen Lagoon were home to early settlers and pioneers.

### Objectives:

To protect the cultural heritage values of the park.

To present information on First Nations and post-contact settlement histories of the area.

### Strategies:

- Establish working relationships with local First Nations.
- Work with local First Nations to increase the historical and cultural knowledge and record of the area.
- Conduct research with First Nations to increase the knowledge of the pre and post-contact history of the area.
- Develop management strategies for the park's cultural heritage values in consultation with First Nations and other knowledgeable sources. Where appropriate, cultural values will be left *in situ*. Where cultural values are deemed to be of provincial or national significance, higher levels of protection and intervention may be required.
- Develop information and educational material on the park's cultural values in consultation with First Nations and other knowledgeable sources.

# Visual, Recreation and Tourism Opportunities Management

Cape Scott Provincial Park has a number of natural and cultural values that create regionally and provincially significant visual, recreation and tourism opportunities. Given the wilderness character of the park, a conservative approach to the management and development of the recreation and tourism values will be adopted.

## Visual Values

The visual values of the park are a fundamental component of the visitor experience. These visual values and the emotional, spiritual and inspirational senses they stir in visitors are often what is recounted and recalled.

The visual values and associated visitor experiences range from one of isolation and remoteness to one of a strong sense of hardships faced by pioneers at Cape Scott. The sweeping ocean views and the beautiful sand beaches are visual attractants for visitors to Cape Scott Provincial Park.

### Objectives:

To retain the visual values within the park so that the viewscapes and wilderness atmosphere of the park are protected.

To work co-operatively with other agencies, companies and individuals so that the viewscapes external to the park are maintained.

### Strategies:

- Encourage other agencies, particularly the Ministry of Forests, forest companies and individuals, to minimize impacts of the visual values external to the park.
- Design, locate, construct and maintain all park facilities in a manner that is in harmony with the surrounding landscape and environment.

## Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Values

Cape Scott Provincial Park is a well-known destination for wilderness-based outdoor recreation opportunities and has the potential to play an important role in the North Vancouver Island tourism industry. The park protects part of the island's north coast as an accessible backcountry park with excellent interpretive potential that all ages can appreciate. It fulfils an unique role in the provincial park system as a backcountry park with minimal development and that is easily accessed by hikers, backpackers, and nature enthusiasts. Cape Scott, in fact, is one of the more accessible west coast wilderness parks and it currently receives approximately 6,500 visitors annually. With the addition of the Nahwitti-Shushartie, Cape Scott Provincial Park could provide a backcountry hiking experience that is less developed than the West Coast or Juan de Fuca trails but with more facilities than is found hiking on Nootka Island or the Brooks Peninsula. With the new Inland Highway, the development of the North Coast Trail and growth of tourism in the future, this park will become increasingly important as a destination area.

### Objectives:

To ensure that recreation and tourism promotion and development are compatible with the conservation objectives for the park.

To manage recreational use of natural and cultural values for minimal impact to ensure these values are maintained and protected for future generations to enjoy.

### Strategies:

- Manage recreational use in accordance with the zoning for the park.
- Develop a monitoring program in conjunction with First Nations to evaluate impacts of recreation use on the natural and cultural values of the park. If monitoring indicates more than acceptable levels of impacts, management actions (such as limits, quotas and closures) may be instituted to protect the park's natural and cultural values.

## Access Strategy

The management of access into a park has far reaching impacts on most other management issues. The amount, type and location of access can change the visitor experience from a solitary backcountry wilderness one to a shared front country experience. As well, access can have significant impacts on the natural and cultural values of a park.

Currently, road access to Cape Scott Provincial Park is via the Holberg Forest Road, which is maintained by Western Forest Products. A parking lot is located just outside the park boundary near the San Josef River on private property owned and maintained by Western Forest Products. There are no other road accessible entry points into the park. The park is closed to aircraft landings except by permit to Lowrie Bay and the mouth of the Nahwitti River. Commercial water access is permitted at Shushartie Bay, Nahwitti River, Stranby River, Fisherman's Bay and Experiment Bight.

### Objectives:

To provide road, marine and air access points at specific locations.

To maintain the remote backcountry experience of the park.

### Strategies:

- Develop visitor information kiosks at all access entry points into the park. The kiosks will display important visitor information including education, safety and security information.
- Expand and relocate, if necessary, the parking opportunities at the San Josef River area to increase vehicular safety and security. To reduce the impact of parking on Western Forest Products privately-held lands, Environmental Stewardship will seek to acquire this property. If this land acquisition is not possible, the parking facilities may be relocated to an area within the park.
- Develop an access road to Shushartie Bay to enable the development of a vehicle accessible front country campground, boat launch and trailhead for the proposed North Coast Trail. This would be contingent upon: the adjacent forest licensee developing and maintaining a suitable forest logging road in the vicinity of the park boundary; the completion of an impact assessment; and the completion of recreational site planning for the area. Alternatively, develop a trail to accommodate access to the proposed North Coast Trail.

- Allow commercial aircraft landings at Shushartie Bay, the mouth of the Nahwitti River, mouth of the Stranby River (western portion of Shuttleworth Bight), and maintain Lowrie Bay as a commercial landing site, subject to impact assessments.
- Permit boat access for commercial purposes to Experiment Bight, Guise Bay, Fisherman's Bay, mouth of the Stranby River (western portion of Shuttleworth Bight), the mouth of the Nahwitti River and Shushartie Bay.
- Monitor level of use of aircraft and boat access and possible impacts on wildlife to ensure that ecological values are maintained and the recreation experience is not eroded.
- Encourage air companies and private pilots flying over the park to control noise and disruption of wildlife and park visitors. Develop a code of conduct in conjunction with pilots.
- Allow owners of inholdings access to their property by air or water-based transportation.
- Minimize the number and frequency of helicopter flights and landings in the park by government personnel and contractors. Reroute flight paths where possible to avoid the disturbance of recreationists and wildlife.
- Prohibit air and road access at all other locations except for emergencies and operational requirements.

**Plate 4: Hansen Lagoon Meadows**

# Hiking and Backpacking Opportunities

In Cape Scott Provincial Park, travel by foot has been the historical means of transportation for centuries. With the arrival of European settlers, new wagon routes of 'corduroy' wood construction provided access to the area. Today, many of the park trails follow these old trails and wagon routes. The park's main hiking trail leads from the parking lot near San Josef Bay, past Eric Lake to a variety of locations including Nissen Bight / Fisherman Bay or Hansen Lagoon, Nels Bight, Experiment and Guise Bays and the Cape Scott (Figure 2). Portions of the old abandoned and overgrown Shushartie (Skinner) trail can be found in the Nahwitti-Shushartie area. A trail for people with impaired mobility currently provides access to San Josef Bay.

In 1994, the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan recommended that the Nahwitti-Shushartie area be added to Cape Scott Provincial Park, in part, to provide a high quality coastal hiking experience, and that a new North Coast Trail be developed within this park addition. The concept behind the development of a North Coast Trail was to help diversify the economy of northern Vancouver Island by developing a major tourism attraction that would draw visitors to the area. Since 1994, numerous studies have been undertaken to further refine and develop the concept for the North Coast Trail. The North Coast Trail has been suggested as a potential 'tourism anchor' for the region.

### Objective:

To develop a remote backcountry hiking opportunity along the North Coast Trail from Cape Scott to Shushartie Bay. The trail will be designed for day or multi-day wilderness hiking and backpacking trips.

### Strategies:

- Finalize the site plan for the location and construction of the North Coast Trail, subject to impact assessment and in consultation with First Nations, the public, government agencies, and private landowners.
- Develop access to and egress from the North Coast Trail at Shushartie Bay including a trailhead with parking facilities and an information kiosk. If a vehicle accessible campsite is developed, use those facilities to provide the access to the North Coast Trail.
- Negotiate easements and rights of ways through private land, or acquire private land in order to build the North Coast Trail.
- Maintain existing trail network in the old Cape Scott Provincial Park; do not develop any new trails.
- Develop a monitoring program in conjunction with First Nations to evaluate the impacts of recreation. Implement appropriate management actions such as temporary closures, site hardening, visitor education, and maintenance programs.
- Maintain the hiking only designation for all trails in the park.

# Overnight Opportunities

For many park visitors that come to Cape Scott Provincial Park, a key aspect of the experience is to stay overnight in a remote backcountry area. Most visitors come for a backcountry experience that can last from one to seven days. Tents are now the only opportunity currently available to overnight in the park.

### Objective:

To provide an array of overnight opportunities ranging from random and designated backcountry campsites, to a road-accessible developed front country campground, to simple shelters or huts.

### Strategies:

- Limit backcountry camping opportunities in Cape Scott Provincial Park to beach camping and other designated campsites. Locate and design all sites to minimize impacts on the natural and cultural values of the park.
- Develop a vehicle accessible front country campground in the Shushartie Bay area, following the completion of an impact assessment,. The development would be confined to old logging roads and areas that have been previously harvested. This development is contingent on suitable road access becoming available to the area, and upon the completion of a recreation site development plan.
- Construct a series of designated campsites for hikers and kayakers along the new North Coast Trail, subject to an impact assessment.
- Construct a series of simple shelters or huts along the new North Coast Trail. These structures will be able to accommodate up to ten people and will be located at similar points as the designated campsites, except fewer in number. Design and construct structures to minimize impacts on the natural and cultural values of the park.
- Maintain the current level of facility and trail development for the rest of the original portion of Cape Scott Provincial Park but allow for the future reconstruction of the shelter and a small number of tenting sites at Fisherman River.
- Monitor the impacts on the park's natural and cultural values associated with overnight opportunities.
- Allow for existing mooring along the coast. Moorage buoys currently exist in Sea Otter Cove and are maintained by the Canadian Coast Guard. No additional moorage buoys will be provided in the park.

## Angling

Freshwater angling occurs in Cape Scott Provincial Park. The target species of salmon and cutthroat trout are present in Hansen Lagoon, Fisherman River, San Josef River, and Eric Lake. The Stranby, Shushartie and Nahwitti rivers support salmon, winter rainbow (steelhead) and cutthroat trout. At present, angling pressure is light but is expected to increase as access is provided through the North Coast Trail.

### Objective:

To maintain recreational fishing opportunities in Cape Scott Provincial Park.

### Strategies:

- Maintain freshwater fisheries within the Wilderness Recreation Zone with methods other than stocking.
- Monitor and regulate angling in conjunction with the Fish and Wildlife Science and Allocation Section of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection to ensure that natural fish populations are maintained.
- Continue to recognize traditional rights of First Nations as they may apply.

## Hunting

Hunting occurs in Cape Scott Provincial Park. Waterfowl are hunted at Hansen Lagoon and black bears, elk, deer, cougar and wolves may be hunted in the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition.

### Objective:

To maintain current opportunities for hunting, subject to conservation and safety considerations.

### Strategies:

- Monitor and regulate hunting, in conjunction with the Fish and Wildlife Science and Allocation Section of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection to ensure sustainable wildlife populations and public safety.
- Continue to recognize traditional hunting rights of First Nations as they may apply.

## Commercial Recreation

Cape Scott Provincial Park is currently used as a destination for a small number of commercial recreation operators. The number of commercial recreation operators will continue to grow as the awareness and popularity of the park becomes more widely known. One of the reasons that the North Coast Trail was designated was to develop a vibrant North Vancouver Island tourism-based economy. The range of potential commercial recreation services that could be provided to park visitors include shuttle and ferry services by land, water and air, professional guiding services, and trip expediting services.

### Objective:

To keep the licensing of companies providing commercial recreation services in the park within the limits of acceptable environmental change and at a level that maintains a wilderness experience.

### Strategies:

- Ensure all commercial recreation activities are in keeping with the vision for the park, and do not degrade the park's natural and cultural values, or the experiences of other visitors.
- Develop and implement a monitoring program in conjunction with First Nations to assess impacts from commercial and non-commercial recreation of the natural and cultural values of the park.
- Develop a code of conduct in conjunction with tourism operators to ensure a high quality wilderness recreation experience.

- Work with Fisheries and Oceans Canada to enforce the regulations for marine wildlife (whales, seabirds, sea lions, etc.) viewing.
- Require all commercial operators within Cape Scott Provincial Park to develop a five-year business plan that is compatible with the park management plan.
- Determine the acceptable amount and type of commercial operators through impact assessments.
- Encourage landowners and tenure holders to minimize impacts to the park and promote compatibility of developments with park management goals and objectives. Emphasize the need for compatible development that is in keeping with the 'vision' for the park and the park management plan.

# Management Services

Environmental Stewardship Division of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection is the provincial government agency responsible for the planning and management of Cape Scott Provincial Park. The *Park Act* and its associated regulations, protected areas policy and procedures, and overall government policy and legislation guide the management of the park. Environmental Stewardship undertakes a number of park management strategies, activities, and actions to ensure that legislation and policies are implemented.

## Objective:

To ensure the various management responsibilities are carried out according to the guidelines of the management plan and the established policies and procedures of the Ministry.

## Strategies:

- Prepare annual operational plans that include data collection, monitoring and assessment, and management activities.
- Maintain a seasonal presence by park rangers or contractors as funding allows.
- Develop and maintain adequate signs and information materials to ensure public safety and security, protection of the park's natural and cultural values, and compliance with park rules and regulations.
- Investigate opportunities for the use of volunteers and others to supplement management activities and services.
- Enforce the *Park Act* and *Park and Recreation Area Regulation*.

# Communications

Communication materials, programs and services are an important function of visitor management. Communications initiatives can play a number of key roles. First, communication initiatives can serve to set visitor expectations and assist in the planning of holidays and recreation activities. Secondly, communications can promote outdoor etiquette and careful use of the park's values. Thirdly, communications can create an awareness and appreciation about cultural and natural values/features, and conservation principles and initiatives.

# Information Strategy

The natural and cultural values of Cape Scott Provincial Park provide Environmental Stewardship Division with the opportunity to communicate important messages and information. These include the importance of managing the park on an ecosystem basis, First Nation history and values, the era of European homesteading in a remote coastal wilderness, and appropriate visitor activities and behaviours. Information about the park will be distributed primarily through the BC Parks web site as well as relying on on-site media, such as signs and brochures, to communicate important park messages. Limited on-site or off-site interpretive and outreach information programs may be included when and where appropriate.

### Objective:

To inform and enlighten park visitors through the provision of accurate and interesting information on the park.

### Strategies:

- Develop an integrated communication plan to direct the development and delivery of park messages, consistent interpretive themes, and applicable information.
- Develop interpretive messages which primarily focus on:
  - the role of British Columbia parks and protected areas;
  - the role of Cape Scott Provincial Park in the provincial protected areas system;
  - the importance of managing protected areas on an ecosystem basis;
  - the relationship between human history and the environment including First Nations and European settlement and development;
  - the unique natural and cultural values that are found within the park; and,
  - important information that will enhance visitor use, safety and enjoyment of the park's facilities and services.
- Develop park communication material in conjunction with the local First Nations to ensure their culture and history is accurately portrayed.
- Ensure signs adequately inform visitors of important park messages including safety and security, rules and regulations, and visitor information.
- Dependent on a communication plan, deliver visitor information at all access points into the park utilising an appropriate facility (i.e. shelter or kiosk).

# Marketing

Promotion of a park can affect the level of use and type of visitor it attracts. Consequently, marketing strategies must be consistent with the management objectives for the park. Cape Scott Provincial Park currently attracts visitors from around the world seeking to experience an

accessible, yet rugged west coast wilderness area. Many of these visitors come for a multi-day backpacking trip. The North Coast Trail would meet a market niche for a coastal hike that fits between the popular developed Juan de Fuca or West Coast trails and the wild undeveloped Nootka Island or Brooks Peninsula. With the completion of the North Coast Trail and development of facilities in Shushartie Bay, Cape Scott could play a large role in the tourism economy of North Vancouver Island.

### Objective:

To portray Cape Scott Provincial Park as an accessible west coast wilderness. Special emphasis will be placed upon visitor opportunities offered by the North Coast Trail, and recreational opportunities at Shushartie Bay.

### Strategies:

- Provide accurate and appropriate information on the park on the BC Parks website and to government agencies, associations, institutions, companies and individuals.
- Encourage local, regional and provincial tourism authorities to market Cape Scott Provincial Park in a manner that is sensitive to its wilderness qualities.
- Support appropriate marketing opportunities which provide economic benefits to local businesses and communities.

## Natural and Cultural Heritage Interpretation

Natural and cultural heritage interpretation programs and services can assist in park management. Heritage interpretation programs and services encourage the natural sense of wonder and curiosity people feel about their history and environment. The programs leave people with a desire to know more, and inspire people to increase their commitment to the care and protection of their natural and cultural heritage. Cape Scott Provincial Park protects natural values while providing an opportunity to interpret important cultural heritage values.

## Interpretive Themes

**The Nature of the Place:**
This is the most basic theme to present at all parks and in most communications. It helps park visitors and residents understand the basic characteristics of Cape Scott Provincial Park and why it is special. Messages will include information on biodiversity, physical geography, geology, weather, climate, and ecological classification schemes.

**Why Protected Areas:**
British Columbia is a spectacular and diverse province that can still preserve relatively undisturbed examples of natural and cultural heritage, and outdoor recreation values. The establishment of protected areas reflects society's values and the value that citizens place on heritage preservation. Park users should know that Cape Scott Provincial Park is set aside to protect these values.

**Humans in the Landscape:**
Park visitors can connect with the other humans who have lived in the landscape. First Nations have a strong past and present association with Cape Scott Provincial Park. In addition, Cape Scott contains a rich European pioneer history that needs to be told. Park communications

programs will seek to inform the visitor about this special First Nations connection and about the post-contact history of the park.

**Protecting the Resource and Yourself:**
One of the key themes that is of particular importance to Cape Scott Provincial Park is that of protecting park values and the visitor. The following messages could be presented: trail etiquette; campfires; low-impact camping; and safety and procedures in the presence of wildlife (especially bears and cougars).

**Global Change and Parks:**
*No park is an island:* making park visitors aware of and understanding the notion that parks are heavily affected by outside influences is an important element in park management. Global change, ecological footprints, environmental carrying capacity, human population growth, and adjacent land-use compatibility are some of the concepts that this theme emphasizes.

## Objective:

To provide opportunities for people to understand, appreciate and enjoy the natural and cultural heritage associated with Cape Provincial Park through high quality interpretive and outreach materials, programs and services.

## Strategies:

- Develop heritage interpretation messages focussing on but not limited to:
  - role of parks and protected areas;
  - the role of Cape Scott Provincial Park in the provincial protected areas system;
  - the importance of managing protected areas on an ecosystem basis;
  - the park's unique and special natural and cultural values;
  - the relationship between human history and the environment including First Nations, and European settlement and development; information that will enhance visitor use, safety and enjoyment of park facilities and services.
- Ensure cultural heritage programs and information explain the values of protected areas to humankind.
- Encourage and support appropriate research aimed at increasing our knowledge and understanding of the park's natural and cultural values. Present knowledge developed through research in heritage interpretation products, programs and services.
- Ensure relevance and quality of all heritage interpretation products, programs and services by reviewing and updating periodically.

# Plan Implementation

This management plan provides the direction for the planning, management and development of Cape Scott Provincial Park. As new information becomes available or conditions and trends change, amendments to the plan may be required. In the event that the Environmental Stewardship Division feels that the overall direction for the planning and management of the park needs to change substantially from the approved management plan, a formal review of the plan with public consultation will be undertaken.

The on-going land claim negotiations between First Nations and the federal and provincial governments may result in changes to this management plan.

Once approved, the implementation of this management plan is the responsibility of the Vancouver Island Regional Manager of Environmental Stewardship Division. A number of strategies have been suggested in this plan. Fiscal, staff, and operational constraints facing government may dictate phasing in the strategies over time. Those strategies that relate to public safety, protection of the park's natural and cultural values, or that enhances visitor understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the park, and that require a minimum of resources, will be given priority.

# High Priority Strategies

**Access**

- Expand and/ or relocate the parking opportunities at the San Josef River area to increase vehicular safety and security.
- Develop an access road to Shushartie Bay to enable the development of a vehicle accessible front country campground, boat launch and trailhead for the proposed North Coast Trail. Alternatively, develop a trail to accommodate access to the proposed North Coast Trail.

**Hiking and Backpacking Opportunities**

- Finalize the site plan for the location and construction of the North Coast Trail.
- Develop access to and egress from the North Coast Trail at Shushartie Bay.
- Negotiate easements and rights of ways through private land or acquire private land in order to build the North Coast Trail.

**Overnight Opportunities**

- Develop a vehicle accessible front country campground in the Shushartie Bay area, following the completion of an impact assessment.
- Construct a series of designated campsites for hikers and kayakers along the new North Coast Trail, subject to an impact assessment.
- Construct a series of simple shelters or huts along the new North Coast Trail.

# Task or Project Strategies

**Land and Resource Tenures**

- Pursue the addition of the foreshore along the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition.

**Freshwater**

- Prepare and provide education on procedures for proper disposal of human waste.

**Vegetation**

- Develop an ecosystem-based management plan.

**Wildlife**

- Develop an ecosystem-based management plan.
- Develop a predator management plan.
- Develop interpretative information on wildlife features and values.

**Fish**

- Undertake an inventory of fish bearing streams and rivers and rearing habitat within the park.
- Evaluate the significance of fish habitat.

**Coastal and Marine Values Management**

- Seek complementary federal recognition or designation of marine protected area status for Cape Scott Provincial Park through the Marine Protected Areas Strategy.
- Pursue the addition of the foreshore along the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition.

**Cultural Values**

- Conduct research with First Nations to increase the knowledge of the pre and post-contact history of the area.
- Develop management strategies for the park's cultural heritage values in consultation with First Nations and other knowledgeable sources.
- Develop information and educational material on the park's cultural values in consultation with First Nations and other knowledgeable sources.

**Access**

- Develop visitor information kiosks at all access entry points into the park.

**Commercial Recreation**

- Develop a code of conduct in conjunction with tourism operators.

**Information Strategy**

- Develop an integrated communication plan to direct the development and delivery of park messages, consistent interpretive themes, and applicable information.
- Develop interpretive messages which primarily focus on roles, human relationships with the environment, ecosystem-based management, park values and visitor use information.

**Interpretive Themes**

- Develop heritage interpretation messages focussing on roles, ecosystem-based management, park values, human relationship with natural environment, and visitor information.

# Ongoing or Monitoring Strategies

**Land and Resource Tenures**

- Acquire any inholdings, licenses or tenures where possible.
- Encourage landowners and tenure holders to minimize impacts to the park and promote compatibility of developments with park management goals and objectives.
- Monitor the impacts of private land development on the park's natural and cultural values and opportunities for visitor experiences.
- Issue permits to trap line holders; acquire trap lines as they become available.

**Freshwater**

- Encourage the Ministry of Forests and forest companies to maintain a high standard of water quality entering the park.
- Ensure that the development and maintenance of trails and campsites minimize erosion of surface materials into creeks, rivers and lakes.
- Monitor upland wetland ecosystems and take management action to limit recreational impacts.
- Ensure that sanitary facilities are properly designed and located.

**Vegetation**

- Allow natural processes and functions to occur unless special natural or cultural values in the park, or land values external to park boundaries are threatened or endangered.
- Actively participate in the review of proposed forest developments adjacent to the park to mitigate impacts to wildlife populations and habitats.
- Liaise with neighbouring agencies and individuals to ensure compatible management objectives are achieved wherever possible.
- Evaluate proposed access points and facility sites for the occurrence of rare vegetation before development or issuance of park use permits.

**Wildlife**

- Evaluate proposed access points and facility sites for wildlife use before development or issuance of park use permits.
- Cooperate and establish common objectives with government agencies, interest groups and the public to manage wildlife and marine species that move into and out of the park.
- Assess, monitor and regulate hunting, fishing and trapping in conjunction with Fish and Wildlife Science and Allocation Section in the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection to ensure healthy wildlife and fish populations are maintained.

**Fish**

- Monitor and regulate angling in conjunction with Fish and Wildlife Science and Allocation Section in the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection to ensure that natural fish populations are maintained.
- Maintain freshwater fisheries within the Wilderness Recreation Zone with methods other than stocking.

**Coastal and Marine Values**

- Work with DFO to enact complementary closures for benthic finfish. Monitor recreation harvests and consider full protection for sensitive species such as California mussel and goose barnacle.

**Cultural Values**

- Establish working relationships with local First Nations.
- Work with local First Nations to increase the historical and cultural knowledge and record of the area.

**Visual Values**

- Encourage other agencies, particularly the Ministry of Forests, forest companies and individuals, to minimize impacts of the visual values external to the park.
- Design, locate, construct and maintain all park facilities in a manner that is in harmony with the surrounding landscape and environment.

**Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Values**

- Manage recreational use in accordance with the zoning plan for the park.
- Develop a monitoring program in conjunction with First Nations to evaluate impacts of recreation use on the natural and cultural values of the park and implement limits, quotas and closures to protect the park's natural and cultural values.

**Access**

- Allow commercial aircraft landings at Shushartie Bay, the mouth of the Nahwitti River, mouth of the Stranby River (western portion of Shuttleworth Bight), and maintain Lowrie Bay as a commercial landing site, subject to impact assessments.
- Permit boat access for commercial purposes to Experiment Bight, Guise Bay, Fisherman's Bay, mouth of the Stranby River (western portion of Shuttleworth Bight), the mouth of the Nahwitti River and Shushartie Bay.
- Monitor level of use of aircraft and boat access and possible impact on wildlife to ensure that ecological values are maintained and the recreation experience is not eroded.
- Encourage air companies and private pilots who fly over the park to control noise and disruption of wildlife and park visitors. Develop a code of conduct in conjunction with pilots.
- Allow owners of inholdings access to their property by air or water-based transportation.
- Minimize the number and frequency of helicopter flights and landings in the park by government personnel and contractors.
- Prohibit air and road access at all other locations except for emergencies and operational requirements.

**Hiking and Backpacking Opportunities**

- Limit backcountry camping opportunities in Cape Scott Provincial Park to beach camping and other designated campsites. Locate and design all sites to minimize impacts on the natural and cultural values of the park.
- Maintain existing trail network in the old portion of Cape Scott Provincial Park; do not develop any new trails.
- Develop a monitoring program in conjunction with First Nations to evaluate the impacts of recreation and implement appropriate management actions.
- Maintain the hiking only designation for all trails in the park.

**Overnight Opportunities**

- Maintain the current level of facility and trail development for the rest of the original portion of Cape Scott Provincial Park but allow for the future reconstruction of the shelter and a small number of tenting sites at Fisherman River.
- Monitor the impacts on the park's natural and cultural values associated with overnight opportunities.
- Allow for existing mooring along the coast. Moorage buoys currently exist in Sea Otter Cove; however, no additional moorage buoys will be provided.

**Angling**

- Maintain freshwater fisheries within the Wilderness Recreation Zone with methods other than stocking.
- Monitor and regulate angling in conjunction with the Fish and Wildlife Science and Allocation Section, Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, to ensure that natural fish populations are maintained.
- Continue to recognize traditional rights of First Nations as they may apply.

**Hunting**

- Monitor and regulate hunting, in conjunction with the Fish and Wildlife Science and Allocation Section, Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, to ensure sustainable wildlife populations and public safety.
- Continue to recognize traditional hunting rights of First Nations as they may apply.

**Commercial Recreation**

- Ensure all commercial recreation activities are in keeping with the vision for the park, and do not degrade the park's natural and cultural values, or the experiences of other visitors.
- Develop and implement a monitoring program to assess impacts from commercial and non-commercial recreation of the natural and cultural values of the park.
- Enforce the regulations for marine wildlife (whales, seabirds, sea lions, etc.) viewing as legislated by Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
- Require all commercial operators within Cape Scott Provincial Park to develop a five-year business plan that is compatible with the park management plan.
- Determine the acceptable amount and type of commercial operators through impact assessments.
- Encourage landowners and tenure holders to minimize impacts to the park and promote compatibility of developments with park management goals and objectives.

**Management Services**

- Prepare annual operational plans that include data collection, monitoring and assessment, and management activities.
- Maintain a seasonal presence by park rangers or contractors as funding allows.
- Develop and maintain adequate signs and information materials to ensure public safety and security, protection of the park's natural and cultural values, and compliance with park rules and regulations.
- Investigate opportunities for the use of volunteers and others to supplement management activities and services.
- Enforce the *Park Act* and *Park and Recreation Area Regulation*.

**Information Strategy**

- Develop park communication material in conjunction with the local First Nations to ensure their culture and history is accurately portrayed.
- Ensure signs adequately inform visitors of important park messages including safety and security, rules and regulations, and visitor information.
- Dependent on a communication plan, deliver visitor information at all access points into the park utilising an appropriate facility (i.e. shelter or kiosk).

**Marketing**

- Provide accurate and appropriate information on the park on the BC Parks website to government agencies, associations, institutions, companies and individuals.
- Encourage local, regional and provincial tourism authorities to market Cape Scott Provincial Park in a manner that is sensitive to its wilderness qualities.
- Support appropriate marketing opportunities which provide economic benefits to local businesses and communities.

**Interpretive Themes**

- Ensure cultural heritage programs and information explain the values of protected areas to humankind.
- Encourage and support appropriate research aimed at increasing our knowledge and understanding of the park's natural and cultural values. Present knowledge developed through research in heritage interpretation products, programs and services.
- Ensure relevance and quality of all heritage interpretation products, programs and services by reviewing and updating periodically.

# Cape Scott Provincial Park

# MANAGEMENT PLAN

## Appendices

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# Appendix A: Matrix of Activities, Uses and Facilities for Cape Scott Provincial Park

| Activity/Use/Facility | Allowable in WR Zone | Allowable in SF Zone | Allowable in NE Zone | Allowable in IR Zone |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| Beach activities (swimming, sunbathing, etc.) | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Boating (power) | N | N | Y | Y |
| Boating (non-power) | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Camping - no trace | Y | Y | Y | N |
| Camping - other | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Commercial recreation (facility-based) | M | N | M[1] | N |
| Commercial recreation (non-facility based) | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Fishing | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Hiking and walking | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Hunting | N/Y[2] | N/Y[3] | N | N |
| Natural and cultural values appreciation (birding, photography, wildlife viewing) | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Recreational gold panning/rock hounding | N | N | N | N |
| Scientific research (manipulative activities) | M | N1 | N | N |
| Scientific research (specimen collection) | M | M | M | M |
| Trapping | N2 | N | N | N |
| Use | | | | |
| First Nations traditional uses and activities | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Aircraft access | Y[4] | N | Y[5] | N |
| Exotic insect/disease control | M | M | M | M |
| Filming (commercial) | M | M | M | M |
| Fire management (prescribed fire management) | N | N | N | N |
| Fire management (prevention) | N1 | N1 | N | N |
| Fire management (suppression) | N1 | N1 | N | Y |
| Fish stocking and enhancement | N | N | N | N |
| Forest insect/disease control | N1 | N1 | N1 | N1 |
| Grazing (domestic livestock) | N | N | N | N |
| Guide outfitting (fishing) | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Guide outfitting (hunting) | Y/N[6] | Y/N | N | N |
| Guide outfitting (nature tours) | Y | Y | Y | Y |

[1] In the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition only.
[2] Only waterfowl hunting is only allowed in the old Cape Scott Provincial Park.
[3] Only waterfowl hunting is only allowed in the old Cape Scott Provincial Park.
[4] By permit only to Lowrie Bay.
[5] By permit only and only to Shushartie Bay, mouth of the Nahwitti and the mouth of the Stranby River (western portion of Shuttleworth Bight).
[6] Hunting is only allowed in the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition.

# Appendix A: Matrix of Activities, Uses and Facilities for Cape Scott Provincial Park

| Activity/Use/Facility | Allowable in WR Zone | Allowable in SF Zone | Allowable in NE Zone | Allowable in IR Zone |
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| **Activity** | | | | |
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| Boating (power) | N | N | Y | Y |
| Boating (non-power) | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Camping - no trace | Y | Y | Y | N |
| Camping - other | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Commercial recreation (facility-based) | M | N | M[1] | N |
| Commercial recreation (non-facility based) | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Fishing | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Hiking and walking | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Hunting | N/Y[2] | N/Y[3] | N | N |
| Natural and cultural values appreciation (birding, photography, wildlife viewing) | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Recreational gold panning/rock hounding | N | N | N | N |
| Scientific research (manipulative activities) | M | N1 | N | N |
| Scientific research (specimen collection) | M | M | M | M |
| Trapping | N2 | N | N | N |
| **Use** | | | | |
| First Nations traditional uses and activities | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Aircraft access | Y[4] | N | Y[5] | N |
| Exotic insect/disease control | M | M | M | M |
| Filming (commercial) | M | M | M | M |
| Fire management (prescribed fire management) | N | N | N | N |
| Fire management (prevention) | N1 | N1 | N | N |
| Fire management (suppression) | N1 | N1 | N | Y |
| Fish stocking and enhancement | N | N | N | N |
| Forest insect/disease control | N1 | N1 | N1 | N1 |
| Grazing (domestic livestock) | N | N | N | N |
| Guide outfitting (fishing) | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Guide outfitting (hunting) | Y/N[6] | Y/N | N | N |
| Guide outfitting (nature tours) | Y | Y | Y | Y |

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[6] Hunting is only allowed in the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition.

| Activity/Use/Facility | Allowable in WR Zone | Allowable in SF Zone | Allowable in NE Zone | Allowable in IR Zone |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Guide outfitting (river rafting) | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Horse use/pack animals (not exotic) | N | N | N | N |
| Motorised water access | N | N | Y[7] | Y |
| Non-motorised water access | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Noxious weed control | N1 | N1 | N1 | N1 |
| Off-road Access (mechanical activities) | N | N | N | N |
| Off-road Access (motorised - not snowmobiles) | N | N | N | N |
| Pack animals (exotic) | N | N | N | N |
| **Facility** | | | | |
| Administrative buildings and compounds | N | N | N | M |
| Backcountry huts and shelters | N[8] | N | Y[9] | Y |
| Boat launches | N | N | M[10] | Y |
| Campgrounds and picnic areas (vehicle access and serviced)) | N | N | N | Y |
| Campgrounds (other) | M | Y | Y | Y |
| Communication sites | N | N | N | N |
| Interpretation and information buildings | N | N | N | Y |
| Roads and parking lots | N | N | N | Y |
| Lodges and other serviced accommodation | N[11] | N | N | M |
| Trails (hiking, cycling, cross-country skiing) | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Utility corridors | N | N | N | N |
| Water control structures | N | N | N | N |

Y = allowed subject to conditions identified in the management plan
M = may be permitted if compatible with protected area objectives
N = not allowed
N1 = allowed for expressed management purposes only
N2 = present and allowed to continue but not normally allowed

[7] Commercial permits at Experiment Bight, Guise Bay, Fisherman's Bay, the mouth of the Stranby and Shushartie only.
[8] Pre-existing cabin at Lowrie Bay.
[9] Limited to the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition.
[10] Only boat ramp at San Josef; no further ones to be developed.
[11] Only on private property.

| Activity/Use/Facility | Allowable in WR Zone | Allowable in SF Zone | Allowable in NE Zone | Allowable in IR Zone |
|---|---|---|---|---|
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| Horse use/pack animals (not exotic) | N | N | N | N |
| Motorised water access | N | N | Y[7] | Y |
| Non-motorised water access | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Noxious weed control | N1 | N1 | N1 | N1 |
| Off-road Access (mechanical activities) | N | N | N | N |
| Off-road Access (motorised - not snowmobiles) | N | N | N | N |
| Pack animals (exotic) | N | N | N | N |
| **Facility** | | | | |
| Administrative buildings and compounds | N | N | N | M |
| Backcountry huts and shelters | N[8] | N | Y[9] | Y |
| Boat launches | N | N | M[10] | Y |
| Campgrounds and picnic areas (vehicle access and serviced)) | N | N | N | Y |
| Campgrounds (other) | M | Y | Y | Y |
| Communication sites | N | N | N | N |
| Interpretation and information buildings | N | N | N | Y |
| Roads and parking lots | N | N | N | Y |
| Lodges and other serviced accommodation | N[11] | N | N | M |
| Trails (hiking, cycling, cross-country skiing) | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Utility corridors | N | N | N | N |
| Water control structures | N | N | N | N |

Y = allowed subject to conditions identified in the management plan
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[10] Only boat ramp at San Josef; no further ones to be developed.
[11] Only on private property.

# Appendix B: Summary of Public Comments

The planning process for Cape Scott Park had a high degree of public involvement. The public was involved at three stages – developing a vision for the park, reviewing development concepts and reviewing the draft plan. Workshops, open houses and a community focus meeting were held in various communities including Victoria, Vancouver, Courtenay, and Port Hardy.

To assist in the planning process, a background document was prepared. This document, which summarizes all the pertinent information, and invitations to workshops were broadly distributed to a mail list of over 100 individuals and groups. The background document was later posted on the BC Parks website.

In the early winter of 1998, workshops were held in five communities to develop a vision for Cape Scott Provincial Park. This vision would help to guide overall management and development of the park. The results of the workshops were wide ranging and it was identified that further work was needed to develop a common vision for the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition.

In the fall of 1998, another three workshops were held to discuss the level of development for the North Coast Trail based on a series of development scenarios. Once again, a wide range of opinions were presented, with the more immediate community favouring more access and development than the other communities. In total, over 130 people attended the various workshops.

In February of 2001, public open houses were held in Victoria, Campbell River and Port Hardy to review the draft management plan. Close to 80 people attended these sessions and 21 written submissions were received. Following the open houses, a meeting was held in Port Hardy with the Mount Waddington Community Resource Board, community leaders and parks staff to review the public comments and to finalize the draft management plan.

Most people supported the proposed management direction for the park and expressed their desire to ensure that the park's natural and cultural values were well protected. In Port Hardy, attendees wished to have the North Coast Trail developed to assist the North Island's tourism industry and local economies and to have a road developed into Shushartie Bay.

Below is a synopsis of the main written and verbal comments taken from the open houses, meetings and written submissions, and the rationale of how they were incorporated.

## Level of Development of the North Coast Trail

**Situation:** One of the reasons the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition was protected is to develop a North Coast Trail. The draft management plan directs government to develop the North Coast Trail by finalizing the site plan for trail location and actually constructing the trail, subject to impact assessment and First Nation consultation. The plan also gives the direction to develop a vehicle accessible campground in the Shushartie Bay area and to construct a series of camping sites and simple shelters or huts along the trail.

**Public Comment:** There was a wide range of comment on the North Coast Trail. Most supported the development, although a few disagreed with building a trail.
*Level of development* - Some people would like to see destination facilities including lodges, hostels and campgrounds; others supported formalized campsites to limit site degradation, while others wanted the trail to be remote, difficult challenging and only primitive facilities. Others asked for the area not to be over developed and left as pristine and wild as possible.
*Type of facilities* - Some supported roofed structures but indicated that they should not be advertised as accommodation for overnighting as it may pull too many visitors in or attract people who were not prepared for the rigours of the North Coast. Others supported use of cabins to extend the season and for safety purposes; they felt that cabins would not compromise the wilderness aspects. Some respondents wanted a vehicle access campsite at Shushartie Bay which would serve as both a destination and a staging area, where as others wanted vehicle-accessible campgrounds at the mouth of the Nahwitti and Stranby rivers as well.
*Routing* - Some respondents indicated that it will be important to some to keep the trail as close to the water as possible to attract visitors, while others suggest using the old corduroy road.
*Carrying Capacity* – Some people were concerned about overcrowding and destroying the experience; a permit system was suggested to avoid this.

**Analysis:** In order to be a tourist draw, the North Coast Trail must occupy its own niche, so that it is an alternative to the popular trips such as the Juan de Fuca Trail, West Coast Trail, Nootka Island and Brooks Peninsula. Given the climate of that part of the island, some facilities are needed to appeal to the wider range of hikers. The natural scenery and coastline should be used as much as possible to attract international visitors. A vehicle-accessed campsite has been added to provide a staging area for the trail and to address the call for such a campsite that presently is not available on the North Island. Vehicle-accessed campgrounds at the mouth of each river are not appropriate in terms of providing an international attraction; however, one campground would serve to anchor the trail.

**Plan Recommendation:**

- That the North Coast Trail be built to provide opportunities for extended and remote backpacking trips along the coast.
- That some facilities would be provided to provide an less rustic experience than Nootka Island and Brooks Peninsula.

## Access

**Situation:** Currently, access into the park is primarily by foot from the parking lot located just outside the park on Western Forest Products' property. Access can also be gained to some locations by boat, fixed winged planes or helicopter. The draft management plan suggests that a route from Shushartie Bay be developed to assist with egress and access to the trail, and that access planning take place to address boat and air traffic.

**Public Comment:** This was one of the most common points raised. Many people wanted some form of road access into the park which would access the beach. This would primarily be for families or for those who are less physically able. Preferred locations were San Josef Bay and Shushartie Bay, although some people wanted access down every major watershed in the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition. On the other hand, some were concerned that increased access

would mean more vandalism and wildlife poaching. Others recommended that moorage be developed at Hansen Lagoon.

**Analysis:** San Josef Beach already has a wheel-chair accessible path from the parking lot to the San Josef Beach, that facilitates families and those that are less physically able. A staging area is needed at the far end of the North Coast Trail in order for hikers to gain access to the trail. Development of access down each of the watersheds would defeat the purpose of the wilderness trail and make it less attractive as an international destination. The Canadian Coast Guard maintains moorage buoys in Sea Otter Cove for safety purposes. Additional buoys there or elsewhere in the park are not appropriate for the wilderness experience being provided.

**Plan recommendation:**

- Only access to Shushartie Bay would be developed, and depending on an impact assessment and consultation with First Nations, a vehicle accessible campground would be developed to provide access to the shoreline.
- That the moorage at Sea Otter Cove remain under the maintenance of Canadian Coast Guard and that no further moorage be provided in the park.
- That access by boat for commercial purposes be permitted to Experiment Bight, Guise Bay, Fisherman's Bay, mouth of the Stranby (western portion of Shuttleworth Bight), the mouth of the Nahwitti River and Shushartie Bay.
- That commercial aircraft landings be permitted at Lowrie Bay, mouth of the Stranby (western portion of Shuttleworth Bight), the mouth of the Nahwitti River and Shushartie Bay.

## Economic Opportunities

**Situation:** The North Island has been heavily impacted with the downturn in the timber markets and the fishing industry and the residents are looking to tourism to bolster their economy. The development of an international hiking destination could be a keystone to a tourism economy.

**Public Comment:** Local and regional residents of the North Island are concerned that Environmental Stewardship Division take their views into consideration in the management and potential development of the park such that they can develop tourism opportunities and enjoy the park themselves. They would like to see more tourism opportunities near or adjacent to the park and the opportunity for private commercial tourism ventures to be developed on Crown land adjacent to the park. They also stated that there is a need to work together with major stakeholders to facilitate the development of the trail. Other attendees did not support economic development and activities in parks.

**Analysis:** One of the reasons that the Nahwitti-Shushartie was added to Cape Scott Provincial Park was to develop a North Coast Trail that would serve as a tourism draw to the North Island. The trail needs to be developed so that is occupies a different market niche than the West Coast Trail, the Juan de Fuca Trail, Nootka Island or Brooks Peninsula. A wilderness trail with a few amenities such as huts to escape the rain would set this trail apart from the rest and provide a basis in which to develop a healthy ecotourism industry.

**Plan Recommendations**:

That the North Coast Trail be developed with facilities to provide a comfortable backcountry experience. This includes development of:

- access and egress from Shushartie Bay area
- trail that provides day or multi-day wilderness hiking and backpacking trips through the use of loops
- series of designated campsites to serve hikers and kayakers.

## Protection of Natural and Cultural Values

**Situation:** The enlarged Cape Scott Provincial Park captures a wide range of natural values from marine areas to upland bogs. It captures a representative example of the Nahwitti Lowland Ecosection and protects old growth forests, estuaries, and important fish rearing habitats. A variety of wildlife utilize the park including blue and red-listed species, such as Roosevelt elk, sandhill cranes and Dolly Varden char. The park also protects the remnants of Danish and English pioneers at the turn of the twentieth century and a number of First Nation archaeological sites.

**Public Comments:** The public were concerned that over-development and visitation would degrade the values for which the park was created. Another comment focussed around concerns over the sensitive cutthroat trout populations that may be over fished if promoted.

**Analysis:** With proper impact assessments and mitigation strategies, the development and management of the North Coast Trail would have minimal impact on the natural and cultural values.

**Plan Recommendations:**

- That impact assessments be undertaken for development of North Coast Trail and its associated facilities to ensure the significant impacts to the park's natural and cultural values are minimized.
- Monitor use to ensure that park values are not being compromised, and if they are, undertake steps to address impact. In terms of fish, the populations and fishing pressure would be monitored and angling regulated to maintain populations.
- That staff work with First Nations to develop a monitoring program to ensure protection of values important to First Nations.

## Hunting

**Situation:** Waterfowl hunting is permitted in older portions of Cape Scott Provincial Park and hunting for elk, black bears, deer cougar and wolves is permitted in the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition. The draft management plan stated that hunting will continue.

**Public Comment**: As with many parks, some people objected to hunting in the park, and believed that the animals should be protected from hunting. Other people support hunting as a valid recreational activity in a park.

**Analysis:** Unless there is safety or conservation concerns, hunting is an acceptable recreation activity in Cape Scott Provincial Park.

**Plan Recommendations:**

- Monitor and regulate hunting, in conjunction with the Fish and Wildlife Science and Allocation Section of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection to ensure sustainable wildlife populations and public safety.

**Plate 5: Old fence line along Guise Bay**

# Appendix C: Management Planning Zoning Descriptions

| | Intensive Recreation | Natural Environment | Special Feature |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Objective** | To provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities. | To protect scenic values and to provide for backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment. | To protect and present significant natural or cultural resources, features or processes because of their special character, fragility and heritage values. |
| **Use Level** | Relatively high density and long duration types of use. | Relatively low use but higher levels in association with nodes of activity or access. | Generally low. |
| **Means of Access** | All-weather public roads or other types of access where use levels are high (see "Impacts" below). | Motorised (powerboats, snowmobiles, all terrain vehicles), non-motorised (foot, horse, canoe, bicycles). Aircraft and motorboat access to drop-off and pickup points will be permitted. | Various; may require special access permit. |
| **Location** | Contiguous with all-weather roads and covering immediate areas, modified landscapes or other high-use areas. | Removed from all-weather roads but easily accessible on a day-use basis. Accessible by mechanised means such as boat or plane. | Determined by location of special resources; may be surrounded by or next to any of the other zones. |
| **Size of Zone** | Small - usually less than 2,000 ha. | Can range from small to large. | Small - usually less than 2000 hectares. |
| **Boundary Definition** | Includes areas of high facility development in concentrated areas. | Boundaries should consider limits of activity/facility areas relative to ecosystem characteristics and features. | Area defined by biophysical characteristics or the nature and extent of cultural resources (adequate to afford protection). |
| **Recreation Opportunities** | Vehicle camping, picnicking, beach activities, power-boating, canoeing, kayaking, strolling, bicycling, historic and nature appreciation, fishing, snowplay, downhill and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, specialised activities. | Walk-in/boat-in camping, power-boating, hunting, canoeing, kayaking, backpacking, bicycling, historic and nature appreciation, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, river rafting, horseback riding, heli-skiing, heli-hiking, and specialised activities. | Sightseeing, historic and nature appreciation. May be subject to temporary closures or permanently restricted access. |
| **Impacts on Natural Environment** | Includes natural resource features and phenomena in a natural state but where human presence may be readily visible both through the existence of recreation facilities and of people using the zone. Includes areas of high facility development with significant impact on concentrated areas. | Area where human presence on the land is not normally visible, facility development limited to relatively small areas. Facilities are visually compatible with natural setting. | None - resources to be maintained unimpaired. |
| **Facilities** | May be intensely developed for user convenience. Campgrounds, landscaped picnic/play areas, trail accommodation or interpretive buildings, boat launches, administrative buildings, service compounds, gravel pits, disposal sites, wood lots; parking lots, etc. | Moderately developed for user convenience. Trails, walk-in/boat-in campsites, shelters, accommodation buildings may be permitted; facilities for motorised access - e.g., docks, landing strips, fuel storage, etc. | Interpretive facilities only - resources are to be protected. |
| **Management Guidelines** | Oriented toward maintaining a high quality recreation experience. Intensive management of resource and/or control of visitor activities. Operational facilities designed for efficient operation while remaining unobtrusive to the park visitor. | Oriented to maintaining a natural environment and a high quality recreation experience. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience or to limit impacts. Separation of less compatible recreational activities and transportation modes. Designation of transportation may be necessary to avoid potential conflicts (e.g. horse trails, cycle paths, hiking trails). | High level of management protection with ongoing monitoring. Oriented to maintaining resources and, where appropriate, a high quality recreational and interpretive experience. Active or passive management depending on size, location, and nature of the resource. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience and to limit impacts. |
| **Examples of Zoning** | Campground in Rathtrevor Beach Park; Gibson Pass ski area in E.C. Manning Park. | Core area in Cathedral Park; North beach in Naikoon Park. | Botanical Beach tidepools within Juan de Fuca Park; Sunshine Meadows in Mount Assiniboine Park. |

| | Wilderness Recreation | Wilderness Conservation |
|---|---|---|
| **Objective** | To protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment where air access may be permitted to designated sites. | To protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide unassisted backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment where no motorised activities will be allowed. |
| **Use Level** | Very low use to provide solitary experiences and a wilderness atmosphere. Use may be controlled to protect the environment. | Very low use to provide solitary experiences and a wilderness atmosphere. Use may be controlled to protect the environment. |
| **Means of Access** | Non-mechanised & non-motorised - except may permit low frequency air access to designated sites; foot, canoe (horses may be permitted). | Non-mechanised & non-motorised (no air access); foot, canoe (horses may be permitted). |
| **Location** | Remote - not easily visited on a day-use basis. | Remote - not easily visited on a day-use basis. |
| **Size of Zone** | Large - greater than 5,000 hectares. | Large - greater than 5,000 hectares. |
| **Boundary Definition** | Defined by ecosystem limits and geographic features. Boundaries will encompass areas of visitor interest for specific activities supported by air access. | Defined by ecosystem limits and geographic features. |
| **Recreation Opportunities** | Backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, river rafting, nature and historic appreciation, hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, specialised activities (e.g., caving, climbing). | Backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, river rafting, nature and historic appreciation, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, specialised activities (e.g., caving, climbing). |
| **Impacts on Natural Environment** | Natural area generally free of evidence of modern human beings. Evidence of human presence is confined to specific facility sites. Facilities are visually compatible with natural setting. | Natural area generally free of evidence of modern human beings. |
| **Facilities** | Minimal facility development for user convenience and safety, and protection of the environment e.g. trails, primitive campsites, etc. Some basic facilities at access points, e.g., dock, primitive shelter, etc. | None |
| **Management Guidelines** | Oriented to protecting a pristine environment. Management actions are minimal and not evident. Managed to ensure low visitor use levels. Visitor access may be restricted to protect the natural environment and visitor experience. | Oriented to protecting a pristine environment. Management actions are minimal and not evident. Managed to ensure low visitor use levels. Visitor access may be restricted to protect the natural environment and visitor experience. |
| **Examples of Zoning** | Quanchus Mountains Wilderness in Tweedsmuir Park; Wilderness Zone in Spatsizi Park. | Upper Murray River watershed within Monkman Park; Garibaldi Park Nature Conservancy Area. |